ALL THE INFORMATION YOU'LL EVER NEED TO CREATE THE BEST AIRCRAFT MODELS

3 NEW BUILDS INSIDE

242
September 2025

Model AIRPLANE INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE 242
September 2025
£5.99

A SPITFIRE MADE FOR TWO
Airfix 1:48 Spitfire TR.9

FREE SUBSCRIBER GIFT
180 METRES OF MASKING TAPE!
WORTH £45

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4

THE SHRIKE

NEW KOTARE 1:32 BF 109 K-4 REVIEW

PLUS: ALL THE LATEST KITS | ACCESSORIES | DECALS | BOOKS

DOOLITTLE MEDIA

SWS
1/32
NO.25

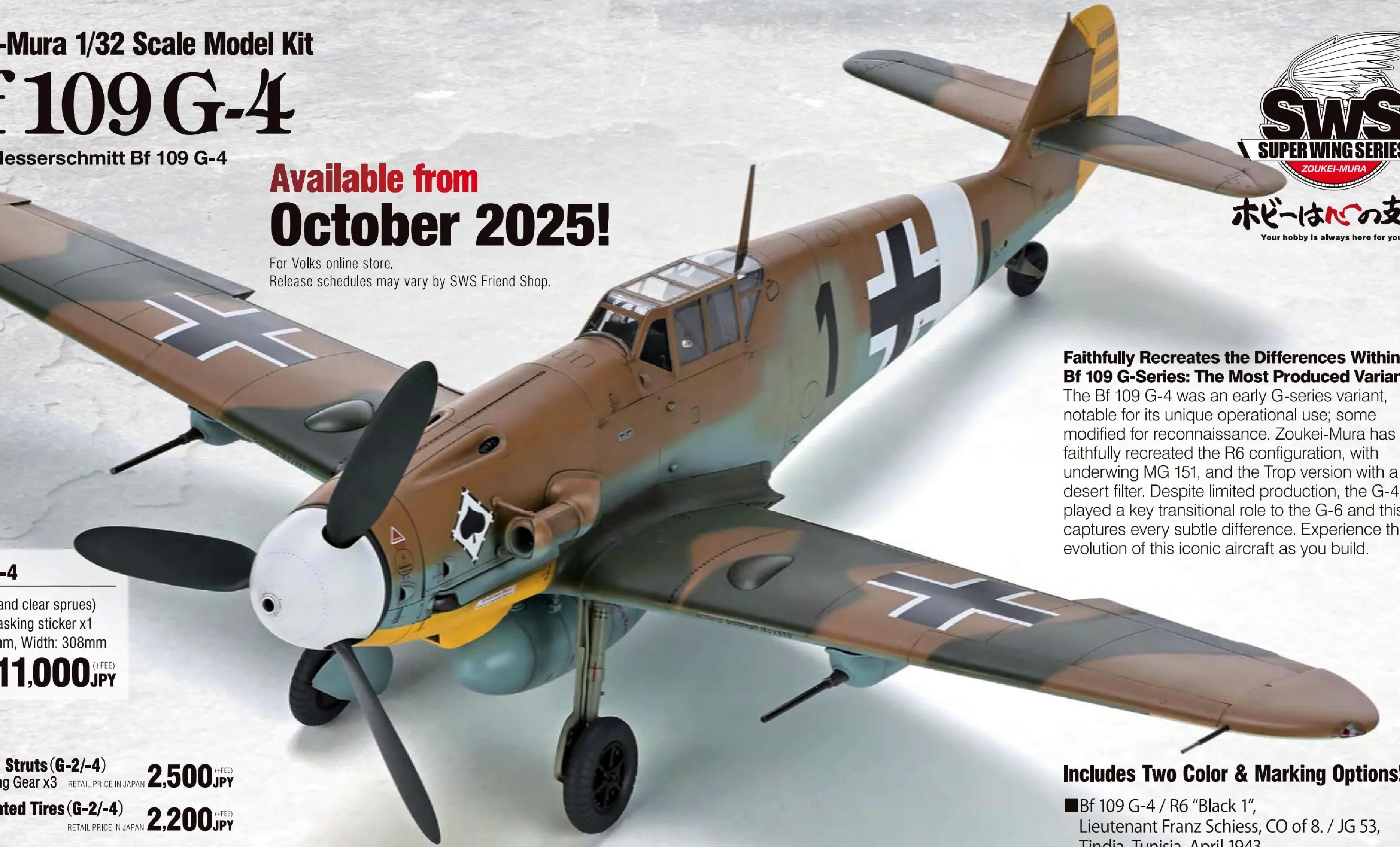
Zoukei-Mura 1/32 Scale Model Kit

Bf 109 G-4

Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-4

Available from
October 2025!

For Volks online store.
Release schedules may vary by SWS Friend Shop.



SWS SUPER WING SERIES ZOUKEI-MURA
ホビーは心の支え
Your hobby is always here for you.

NEW

Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-4

- Plastic injection-molded kit (gray and clear sprues)
- Included Items: Decal sheet x1, Masking sticker x1
- Size: Length: 281mm, Height: 77mm, Width: 308mm
- Total Parts: 350

RETAIL PRICE IN JAPAN **11,000JPY** (+FEE)

Optional Parts

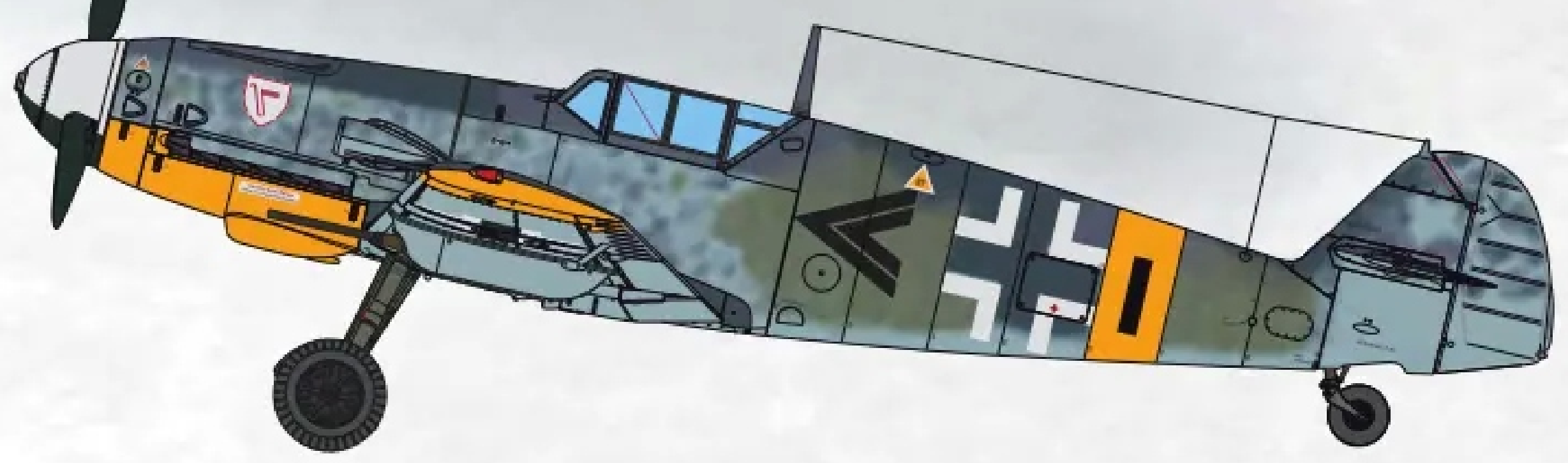
- ● **Bf 109 G Early Version Metal Struts (G-2/-4)**
  Main Landing Gear x2, Rear Landing Gear x3 — RETAIL PRICE IN JAPAN **2,500JPY** (+FEE)
- ● **Bf 109 G Early Version Weighted Tires (G-2/-4)**
  Main Tire x2, Rear Tire x2 — RETAIL PRICE IN JAPAN **2,200JPY** (+FEE)

Faithfully Recreates the Differences Within the Bf 109 G-Series: The Most Produced Variant
The Bf 109 G-4 was an early G-series variant, notable for its unique operational use; some modified for reconnaissance. Zoukei-Mura has faithfully recreated the R6 configuration, with underwing MG 151, and the Trop version with a desert filter. Despite limited production, the G-4 played a key transitional role to the G-6 and this kit captures every subtle difference. Experience the evolution of this iconic aircraft as you build.

Includes Two Color & Marking Options!

■Bf 109 G-4 / R6 "Black 1",
Lieutenant Franz Schiess, CO of 8. / JG 53,
Tindja, Tunisia, April 1943
※Model pictured

■Bf 109 G-4 / R6 "Double Chevron",
Major Wilhelm Ewald, Stab III. / JG 3, Kerch,
Russia, April 1943



Aerodynamic design: Bf109's secret to high speed and agility!

Cockpit layout: German rationalism and precision at its finest!

Wing structural design: optimized for hit-and-run tactics!

ORDER HERE!

- ZOUKEI-MURA WEBSITE — zoukeimura en
- There are 117 official SWS Friend Shops (Retailers) and Affiliated Stores worldwide, contact the one nearest you!

The Old man Blog

- Zoukei-Mura SWS Development Commander talks about his vision and philosophy for SWS. — zoukei-mura oyaji

Check out our official website for the schedules and details! Schedule may vary for SWS Friend Shops. Contact your local store for details.

造形村 ZOUKEI-MURA INC.

©VOLKS INC.

CONTENTS

ISSUE 242 SEPTEMBER 2025

REGULARS

P04 NEWSLINE
P06 COMMENT
P65 NEXT ISSUE
P66 FINAL THOUGHTS...

REVIEWS

P08 IN PRINT
What books will inspire you this month?

P12 TRANSFER LIST
Choices, choices - what decals will you chose to build something different?

KOTARE
1/32
Messerschmitt Bf 109K-4

FEATURES

P14 KIT PREVIEW
Eduard 1:72 P-51D Mustang

P16 A SPITFIRE BUILT FOR TWO
Airfix 1:48 Spitfire TR.9 by Spencer Pollard

P30 THE SHRIKE
Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 by Brian Tomasin

P46 KIT PREVIEW
Kotare Models Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4

P48 GREY NURSE PT.3
Tamiya 1:32 Spitfire Mk.VIII by Mark Casiglia

P62 KIT PREVIEW
Eduard 1:48 P-39K/L Airacobra

Subscribe Today Subscribe Today Subscribe Today
SEE PAGE 28

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Tel: 01525 222573
Email: enquiries@doolittlemedia.com

Model Airplane International. The Granary, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, England

ISSUE 242 SEPTEMBER 2025

Editorial:
Editor: Brett Green
Publisher: Alan Harman
Administration: Russell Wray
Advertising Manager: Alan Harman
alan@doolittlemedia.com

Art:
Design: Alex Hall

Advertisement and circulation:
Model Airplane International, The Granary, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Beds, LU6 1QX.
Tel: 01525 222573
E-mail: alan@doolittlemedia.com

Distribution:
Seymour Distribution, 2 East Poultry Avenue,
London, EC1A 9PT.
Tel: 020 7429 4000

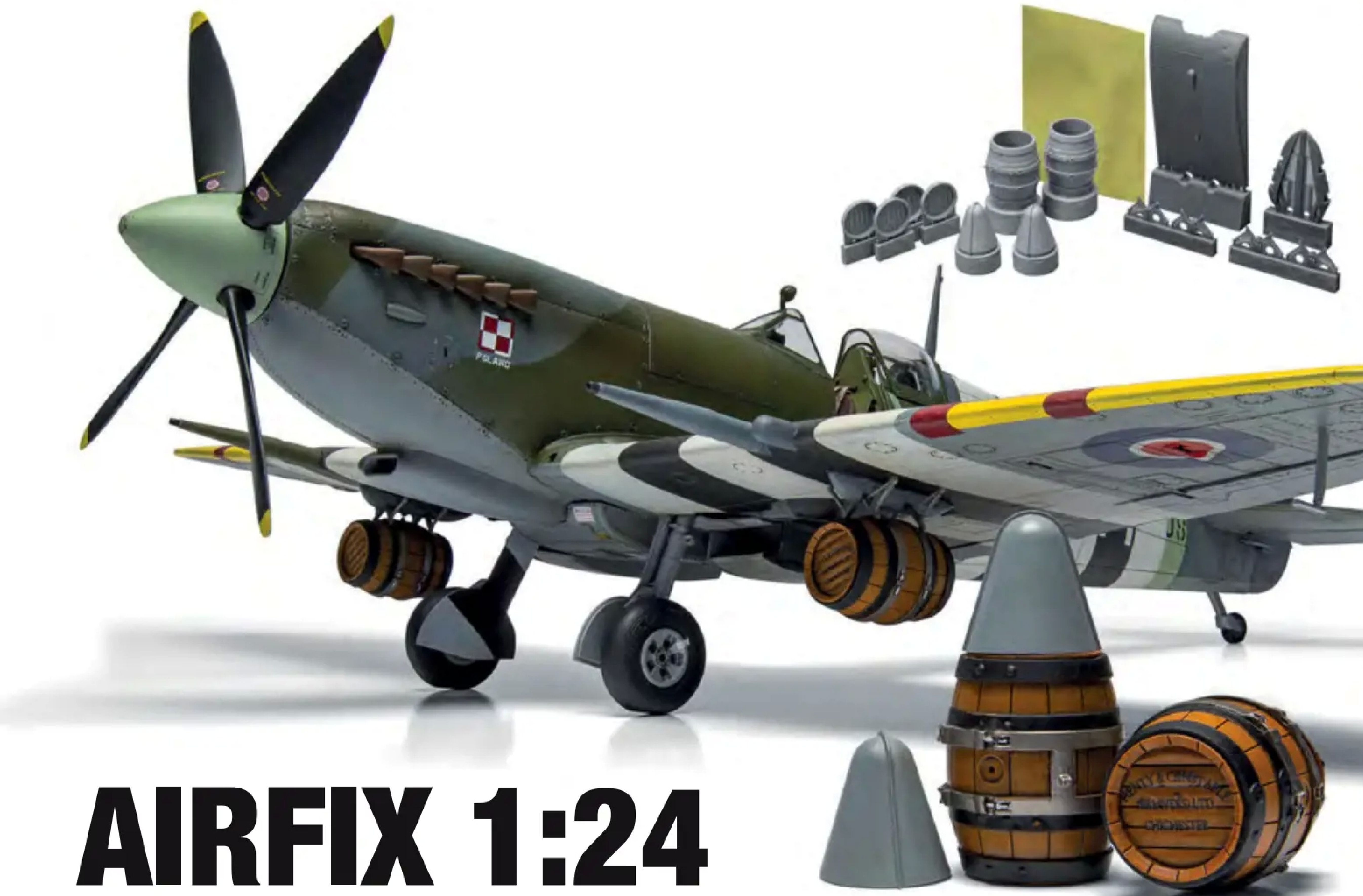
Newstrade:
Select Publisher Services, 3 East Avenue,
Bournemouth, BH3 7BW.
Tel: 01202 586848 E-mail: tim@selectps.com

Subscriptions:
Model Airplane International, The Granary, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Beds, LU6 1QX. Tel: 01525 222573
Rates: UK £55, Eire and Europe £69, Worldwide Air £84.
Website: www.doolittlemedia.com

Model Airplane International is published monthly by Doolittle Media, The Granary, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Beds, LU6 1QX. Entire Contents © 2025 Doolittle Media, Reproduction in part or whole of any text, photograph or illustration without written permission from the publisher is strictly prohibited. While due care is taken to ensure the content of Model Airplane International is accurate, the publishers and printers cannot accept liability for errors and omissions. Advertisements are accepted for publication in Model Airplane International only upon Doolittle Media's standard terms of acceptance of advertising, copies of which are available from the advertising sales department of MAI.

NEWSLINE

This month's round-up of all that's new in the world of aircraft modelling...



AIRFIX
BEER AWAY
1:24 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc - FLYING DRAY

AIRFIX 1:24 SPITFIRE MK.IXC - *FLYING DRAY*

AIRFIX

www.airfix.com

`Airfix announces a new addition to their 1:24 scale Spitfire family - Kit No. A17001A, Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IXc - Flying Dray`

In the summer of 1944, after the D-Day landings, British troops pressing into Normandy faced fierce resistance - and a dry pint glass. Supplies were tight, and morale was vital. So, in one of the war's most unexpected missions, Spitfire pilots took to the skies not just with ammunition - but with beer. Ingenious airmen modified drop tanks and strapped barrels beneath their wings, delivering much- needed refreshment to parched troops across the Channel. Some called it "Operation Cheers." These weren't official missions. They were flights of morale. Spitfires - symbols of British grit - became airborne drays for a brief, glorious period.

It wasn't about luxury. It was about home. A cold beer in a hot war zone was more than a drink - it was a reminder of what they were fighting for.

So, raise a glass to the RAF pilots who delivered courage, camaraderie, and casks- one flight at a time, Because even heroes need a pint!

This Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IXc limited-edition kit in 1:24 scale includes parts required to truly replicate the beer carrying Spitfires 'Flying Drays'.

Additional resin parts include:

- 2 x Beer barrels, including lids.
- 2 x Nose cones
- 2 x Bomb racks
- 1 x Slipper tank

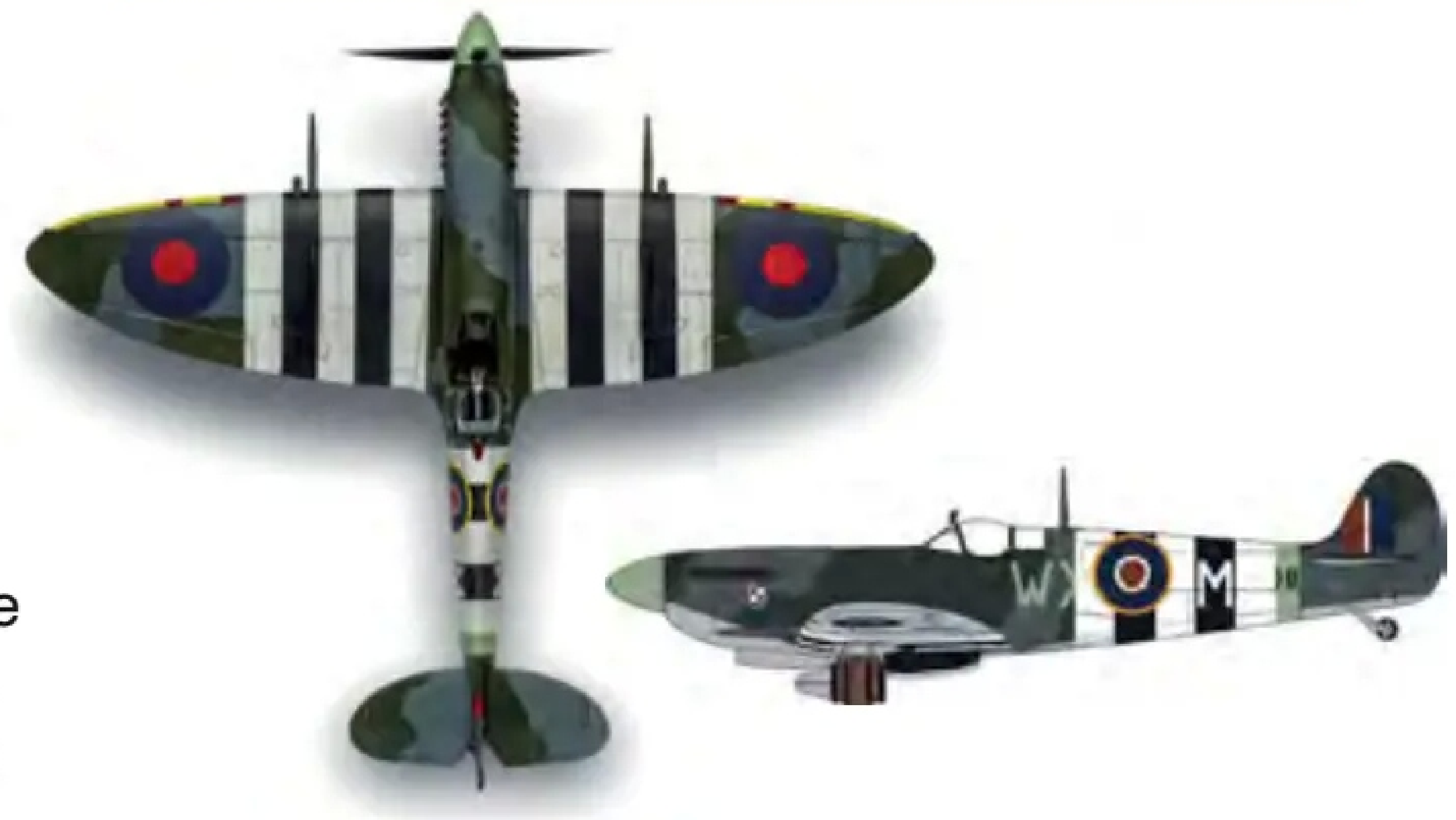
Also included in this release is a masking set for the clear parts and a special edition pint glass, dedicated to ML208, one of the aircraft known to have participated in these missions. The kit comprises 448 parts, with an overall wingspan of 469mm and length of 397mm and is an Airfix first to supply resin parts and canopy masks.

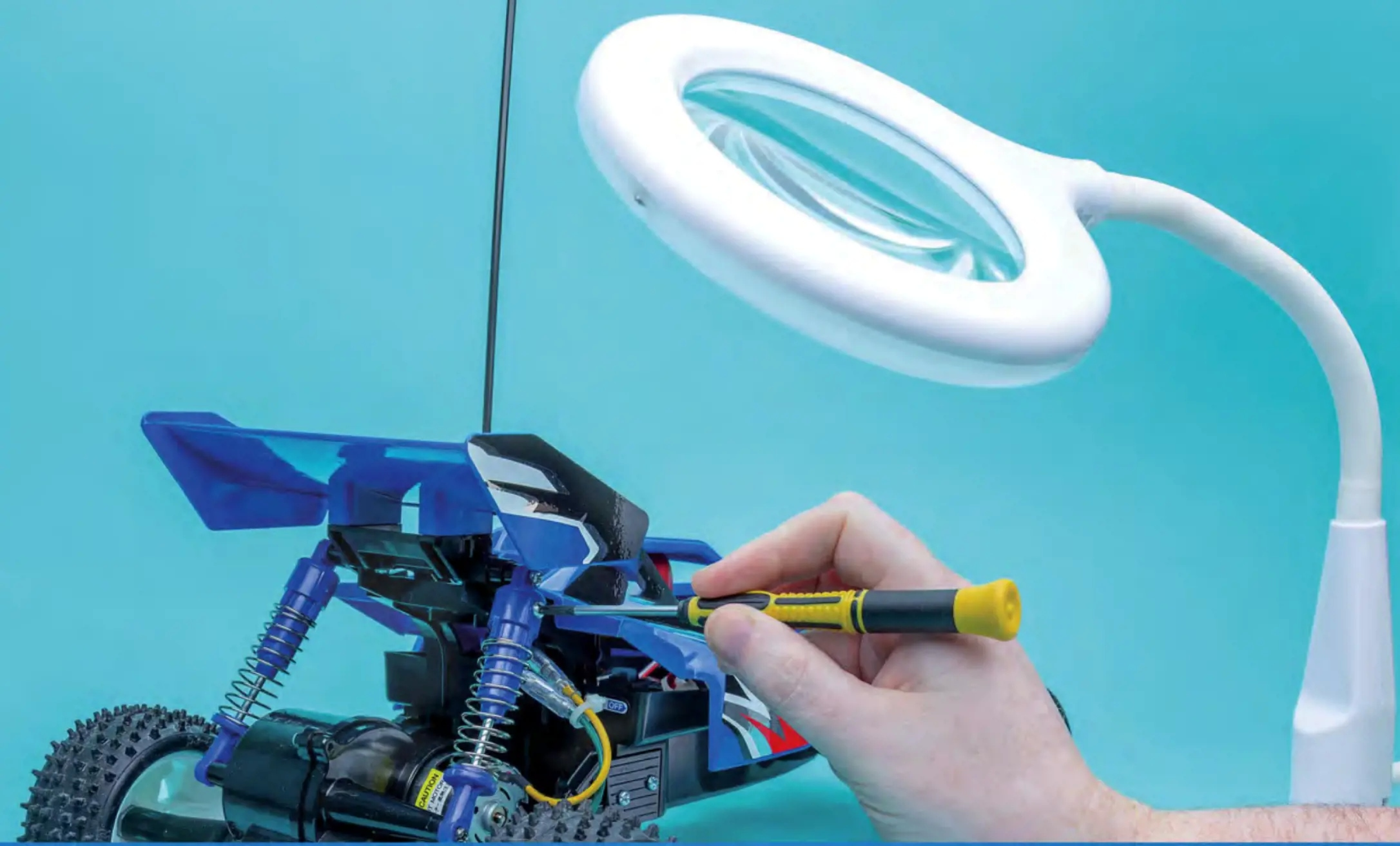
Over the years, various photographs and stories from pilots' memoirs about Spitfires carrying beer barrels have emerged. Publications mentioning a special 'Depth Charge Modification XXX' whereby after the D-Day landings, squadrons based at the forward airfields in northern France would send a pilot back across the Channel in a Spitfire to collect some beer or ale in barrels strapped under the wings on modified bomb racks. Obviously, such sorties would have been deemed highly irregular by the RAF's higher command, so the flights would not have been recorded as such in the pilot's logbooks, which leaves little official proof as to the exact details of these ad hoc deliveries.

Recurring details relating to these escapades frequently turn up in various secondary sources. One example is the involvement of The Henty and Constable Brewery in Chichester and the nearby RAF Ford. To raise spirits, the story was also propagandised by the newspapers of the time, accompanied by some clearly staged photographs.

So, it's difficult to determine the full and accurate story or whether the pilot's claiming involvement in such missions were instead guilty of not letting the truth to get in the way of a good story. ■

Thanks to Airfix for the images and information ***www.airfix.com***





LightCraft

LED Magnifier Lamp

LC8080USB
RRP £29.99

- 36 LEDs, 6500K daylight
- High-quality 100mm glass lens
- 3 dioptre (1.75x magnification)
- Easy positioning with flexi neck
- Perfect for hobby and craft

An excellent value magnifier lamp with easily adjustable flexible neck that provides balanced, steady lighting. Cool white LEDs produce clean bright lighting that's shadow-free, cuts glare and helps reduce eye strain and headaches, perfect for detailed work.

LightCraft
LED
Magnifier
Lamp

+44 (0) 20 8451 6188 sales@shesto.co.uk www.shesto.co.uk

shesto
Trusted for quality, since 1907

COMMENT

How to go PLASTIC MODELLING
NEW EDITION
AIRFIX

“Summer’s going fas

HIGH (SUMMER)

Jonathan Mock enjoys some shading in the Somerset sun.

As I write these words it is late July. The summer equinox has already passed, the BBC Proms season has just started and the Avon IPMS show is but a couple of weeks away - sure signs that the year is already on the turn as summer hangs on for a few sweltering weeks until segueing into the cooler days of autumn.

We’ve experienced drought in the UK - which sort of flies in the face of our reputation for being a soggy little isle - an indication that the world’s climate is changing. From a modelling perceptive the warmer weather has seen less time in the workshop and more spent deadheading the pelargoniums and checking to see how the pumpkins are coming along. I know, I already have a time consuming hobby so why not cram in some more! Actually, part of all that carpe dieming has been a consequence of my Southmead holiday two years ago the scars - physical and mental - that remain with me. Life is for living and having spent a month not knowing if I’d make it to the end of the week, my appetite to stockpile experiences is voracious.

XR311
1003 1971 MONACO GP
SCALE MODELLING DEMONSTRATIO
BY THE INTERESTING MODELLIN
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INT

But as this is a modelling title and not the August issue of BBC Gardner’s World magazine (and you’d be surprised at the parallels between them…) it’s time to take stock of where we are with projects and - whispers it - start planning for Telford.

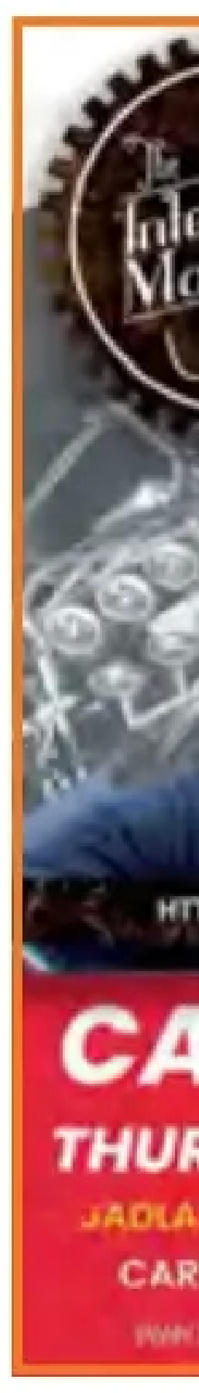
As I mentioned in a previous OpEd, the start of the BBC Proms season means I get to make regular dates with the workbench to catch the shows live as they are broadcast on Radio 3. It’s a good discipline and guarantees me workbench time and discovering music that hitherto had not been part of my cultural diet. I’d never been a big opera fan, but I’m amazed how absorbing it can be, even if I haven’t got a clue what’s being sung!

Mostly modelling time has been moving along projects for The Hobby Company Ltd (www.hobbyco.net) stand for Telford, a fair amount of which are armour related models but then I don’t mind as variety is what keeps the hobby fresh for me.

Coming up on the radar - ironically given its stealth capabilities - is the new Tamiya 1/72 F-35C, the Marines version. I’ll confess I previously had a fairly ambivalent attitude towards the F-35, always viewing it as a big ugly grey blob of an aeroplane, but that changed in 2020 - just as we went into the first COVID lockdown - with a request to make the new 1/72 Italeri kit of the F-35B. It turned out to be a very challenging project, not because of any problems with the kit, far from it, it was one of the best fitting models I’d built in a long time. The challenge was having all those doors and weapons bays open and having to paint and mask everything, sometimes before you could move on to the next stage. This is why I admire Spencer Pollard’s no-nonsense approach of having a model broken down into subassemblies within hours, but then he is a ridiculously talented modeller. However, watching Spencer making the 1/48 Tamiya F-35C and having to face mountains of sub-assemblies and painted parts made me feel right at home!

Of that Italeri F-35B I made five years ago in RAF markings, I remember thinking it was a fabulous kit, albeit a little heavy handed with the RAM panels. Last year I got to make the Tamiya 1/72 F-35B - this time in an Italian scheme - and that was a much more straightforward experience with Tamiya eschewing many of the open bays. They also nailed the look of the RAM panels. Having

The Interesting Modelling Co.
TAMIYA
GOODYEAR
elf
JONATHAN MOCK FROM THE INTERESTING MODELLING CO. WILL BE LIVE IN-STORE BUILDING THE TAMIYA 1:12 TYRELL
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTMODCO



st...”

NOON

followed Spencer making that 1/48 Tamiya F-35C has only whetted my appetite for their 1/72 version, not only for the colour schemes but being able to fold the wings. Capturing the patina of the C-model will also be a challenge, though Tamiya have released some F-35 colours in their excellent lacquer range.

As a break from my aircraft and armour projects, I went on the road in mid-July to the Cars at Jadlam (www.jadlamracingmodels.com) even in historic, mystical Glastonbury on the Somerset levels. I always relish a chance to visit ‘Glasto’, seeing the famous tor in the distance always gives me a kick and being able to host a modelling demo - again for the Hobby Company - at the show was a tremendous privilege. It meant I could play catch up with another modelling project, the big Tamiya 1/12 Tyrell 003 Formula One car that I’m making for Jadlam’s owner Russ.

This is another project where you have to plan ahead to where you’re going with the end goal of painting, which means a trip to my local Poundland (www.poundland.co.uk) to invest in some more parts organiser boxes.

Switching genres also helps tighten up my technique, I do think we can fall into a form of autopilot making the same stuff all the time, so having to stop and actually read the instructions is an education!

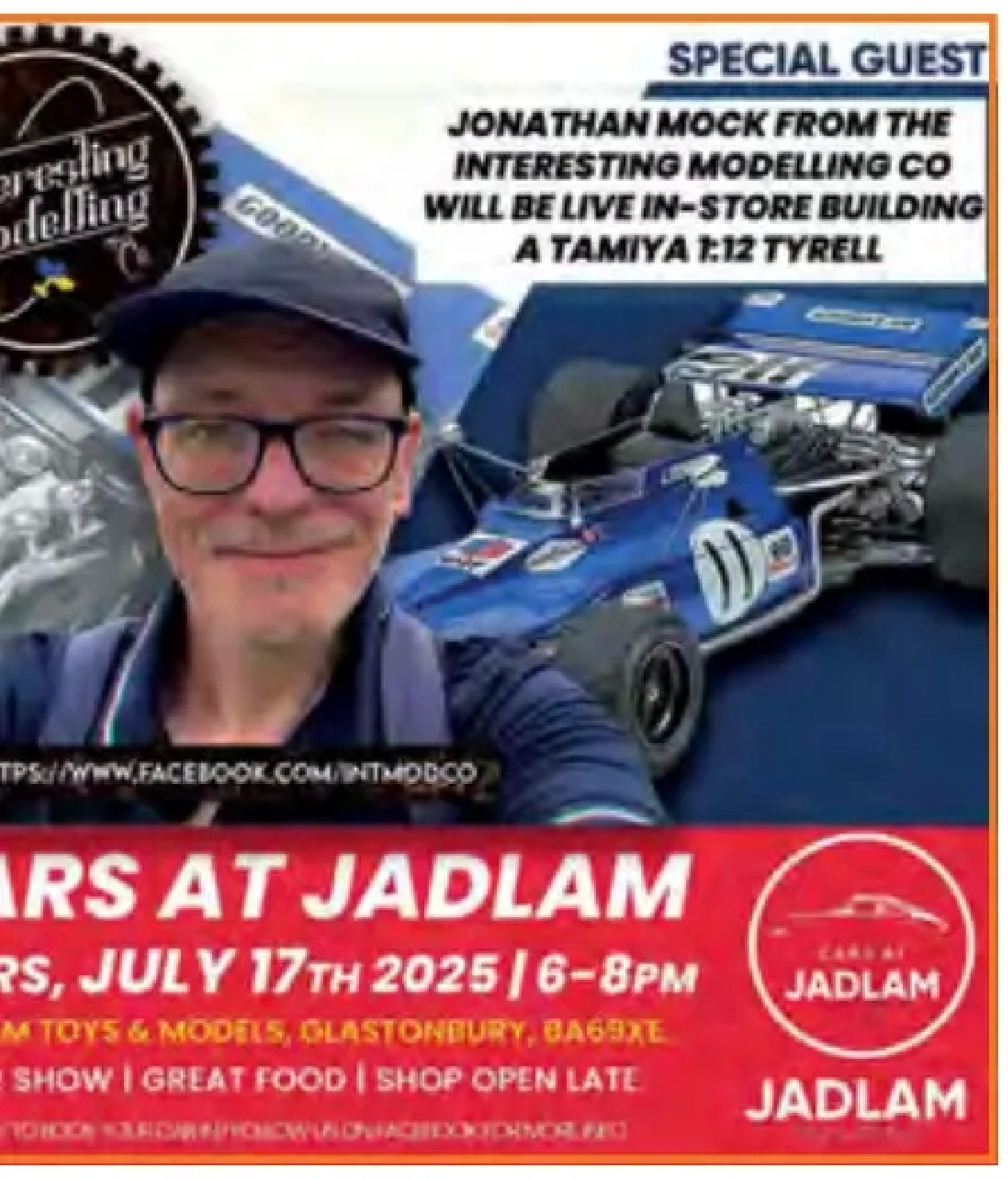
As ever, being able to chat to modellers - and non-modellers - is always a great pleasure, more so when someone comes back with the first kit they’ve bought in years!

Back in the workshop the next evening it was the First Night of the Proms and moving along those Telford projects, which mean powering up the spray booth and breaking out the lacquer paints. Talking of which, I am becoming a massive convert to Mr Paint (mrpaint.sk) which hits that sweet spot of accurate colours and being able to airbrush straight from the bottle. I may have to invest in some more on my next trip to Glastonbury…

I also still have my VonShef Food Dehydrator to try out as a paint drying booth, an investment spurred from conversations with car modeller Mr Ian Hartup on our Interesting Modelling Co webcasts. He swear by his and his results speak for themselves.

But before I do that, I have spuds to water and my friend Laura’s allotment to dig over. An allotment too? Where do you find the time JM?!

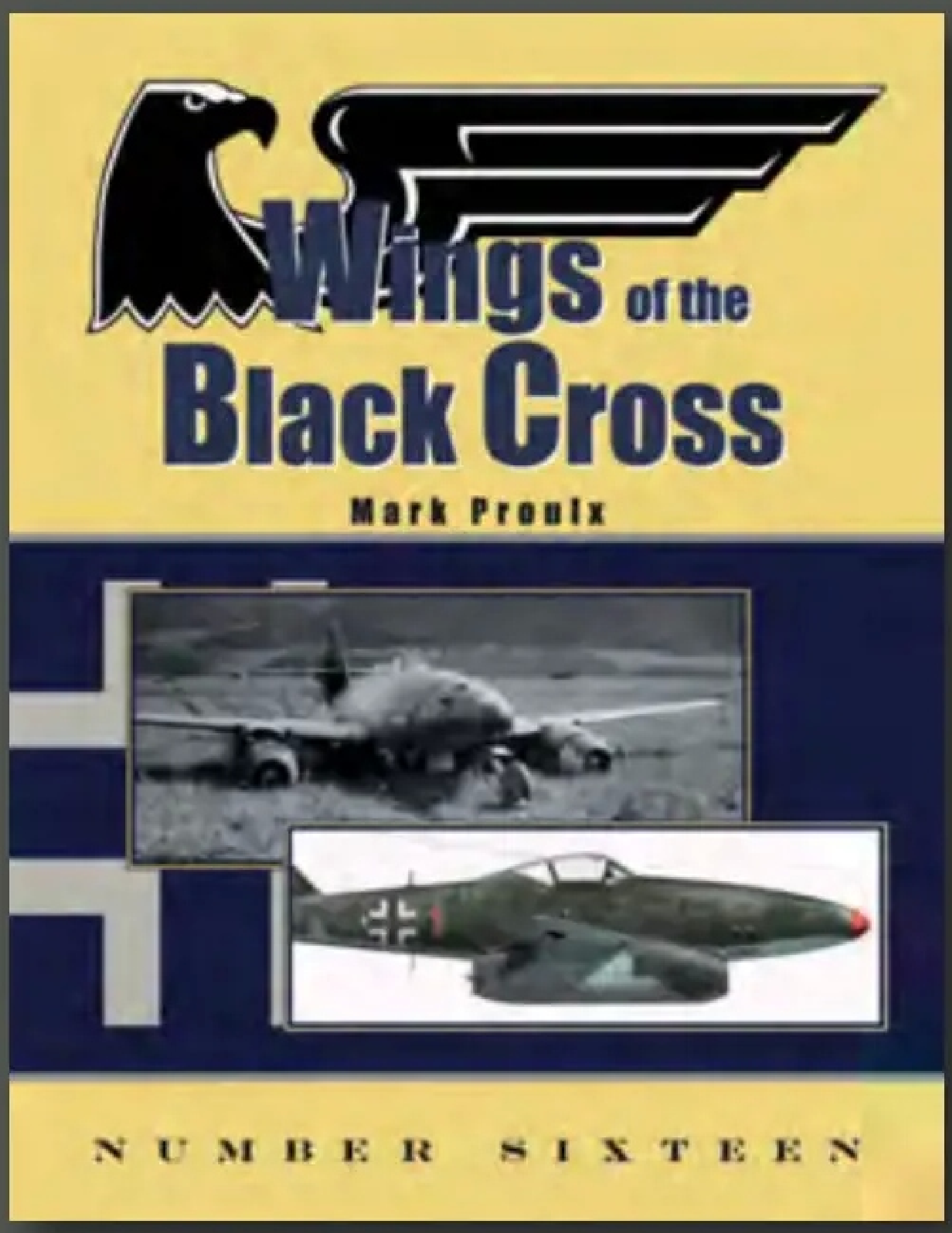
5.00am starts… ■


SPECIAL GUEST
JONATHAN MOCK FROM THE INTERESTING MODELLING CO WILL BE LIVE IN-STORE BUILDING A TAMIYA 1:12 TYRELL
TPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTMODCO
RS AT JADLAM
RS, JULY 17TH 2025 | 6-8PM
M TOYS & MODELS, GLASTONBURY, BA69XE
SHOW | GREAT FOOD | SHOP OPEN LATE
JADLAM
JADLAM

The Interesting Modelling Co
SCALE
MODELLING
DEMONSTRATION
BY THE INTERESTING MODELLING CO.
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTMODCO
Luxury Chocolate Biscuits

Revell
LEVEL 4
03777 Focke-Wulf Fw 200 C-5/C-8 Condor, 1:72
LEVEL 5
03787 Arado Ar196A-3 Seaplane, 1:32
LEVEL 4
03776 Saab JAS-39C Gripen, 1:72
Photo: ©Aviation PhotoCrew / Design: ©BeefBrothers
LEVEL 4
03785 Westland Sea King Mk.41/HU.5, 1:72
LEVEL 5
07741 Tyrrell P34/2, 1:32
Available from all good model stockists and online from
hobbycraft
hobbycraft.co.uk

IN PRINT



"Red 1" Me 262 A-2a W.Nr. 111756 JV 44
Colors: Upper surfaces: Mostly thinly applied RLM 81 with RLM 82 mottling.
Putty applied to fill fuselage panel lines visible underlying the paint.
Fin cap Red with a White stripe. Nose cone in Red. Lower surfaces: RLM 76.
See page 19 for photo reference.

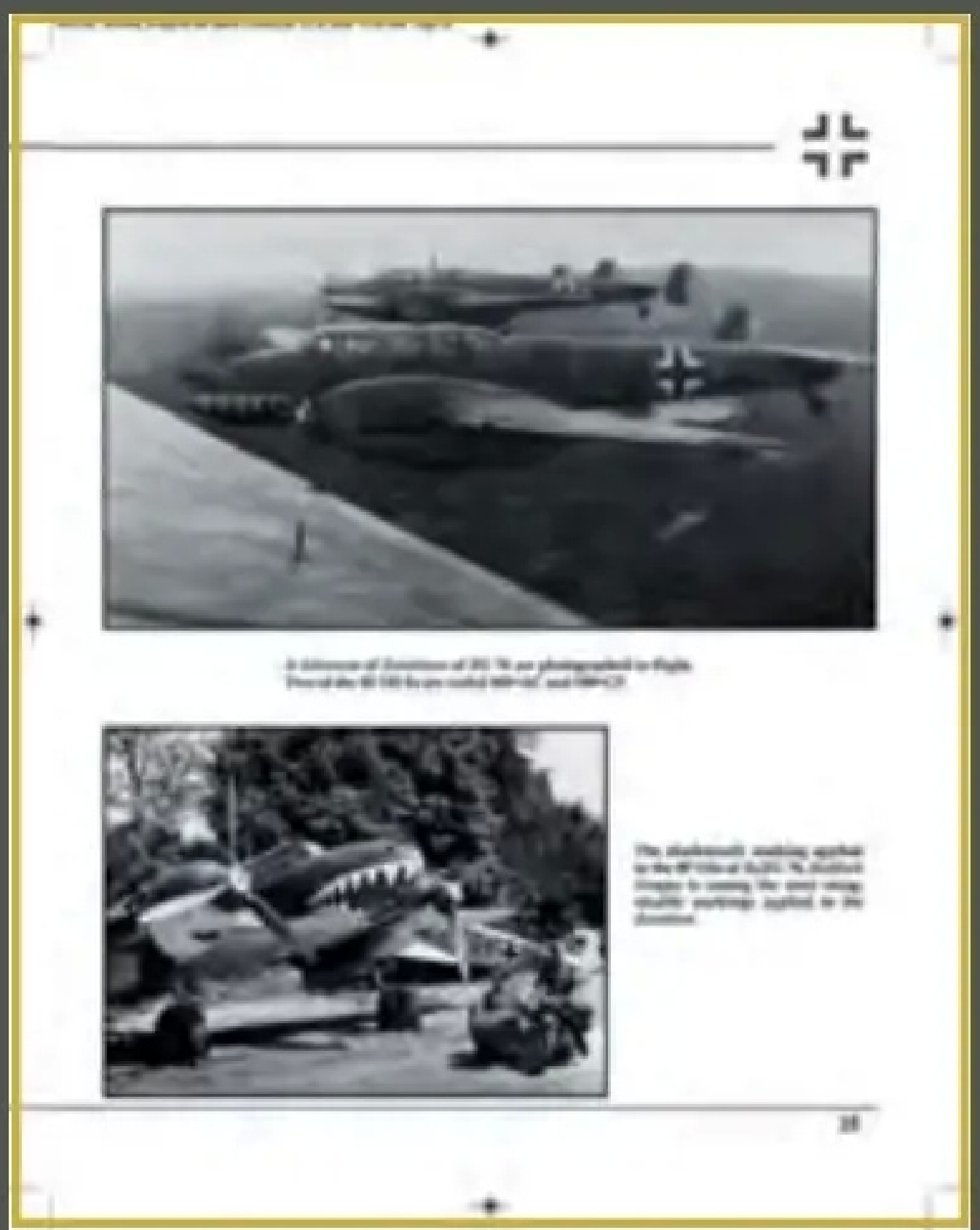
Me 262 A-1a W.Nr. 111728
Colors: Overall natural metal with primer over factory applied putty joints.
Control surfaces and rear engine cowl: RLM 76.
See page 21 for photo reference.

EAGLE EDITIONS

Wings of the Black Cross Number Sixteen

www.eagle-editions.com

Wings of the Black Cross



- **by Marl Proulx**
- **Illustrated by James Bentley**
- **ISBN: 978-0-914144-70-0 and 0-914144-70-7**
- **Price USD$25.00**

Eagle Editions has been known for their Luftwaffe research for as long as I can remember. With the untimely passing of founder Jerry Crandall, it's nice to see that his wife Judy Crandall, along with Mark Proulx, are continuing his legacy with Eagle Editions.

If you are familiar with the Wings of the Black Cross series, this book is similar to the entire series. Focusing on German aircraft, primarily on the Jagdwaffe, however, it does include other aircraft. The 8.5 x 11 laminated cover book is printed on 36 pages on high quality gloss paper. There are 64 high quality photographs included in the book.

Included in the book are Bf-109, Bf-110, FW-190, Me-262, Stukas, and He-177, as well as many more. The periods covered go all the way from the birth of the Luftwaffe to the end of the war. Of particular interest to me were the photos of Adolf Galland's early 109E-4 "Double Chevron Bar" and JV-44 Me 262, both of which are shown in the colour profiles.

Speaking of colour profiles there are eight beautifully rendered colour profiles, four Bf-109s, two FW-190s and two Me-262.

The back cover has a unique colour shot of the underside of a 109 wing, which looks like it was taken in Sicily. The pictures are mostly brand new and never seen. It's the pictures that I've been seeing before or faithfully reproduced in high def. The captions are helpful and informative.

This volume along with the rest of the Wings of the Black Cross series are worth the price of admission. If you haven't bought one of these books, or any of the in series, this is a great place to start.

Highly Recommended.

Floyd S. Werner Jr.

Sample purchased by reviewer

Available from Eagle Editions web store ■

P-51
MUSTANG
PART 1: NA-73X THROUGH P-51A - THE ALLISON-ENGINED VARIA
DETAIL & SC
VOLUME
in detail & scale
by Bert K
and Haag
art by Roc
DETAIL & SCALE
AVIATION PUBLICATION

DETAIL & SCALE

Detail & Scale Volume 21 P-51 Mustang Part 1: NA The Allison-Engined Va

www.detailandscale.com

- **By Bert Kinzey and Haagen Klaus**
- **Artwork by Rock Roszak**
- **ISBN 979-8-9886676-7-4**
- **Digital version $14.99,**
- **Printed version $21.99**

This is the first of three volumes on the P-51 Mustang. The original printed versions were released in 1996 and the amount of information and photos have grown. That accompanied with the technological advantages of digital books makes these new volumes welcome additions to any library.

Before I review the actual book let me mention some advantages of digital books. First off they don't take up a lot of room on your shelf, just digital space on your iPad or Kindle. You can carry your library with you. The other thing is that the photos can be enlarged as can the print. You can print the photos even the enlarged ones. You can also find information quickly by using the search function or scrolling through the pages or chapters quickly.

The only disadvantage I can see is that you have to have a charged iPad or Kindle to use it.

Okay onto the review. Detail & Scale have been synonymous with well researched reference books designed with the model builder and historian in mind. In particular the model builder who is looking for nuances between versions will be greatly rewarded. Written by Bert Kinzey and Haagen Klaus this volume is well written, informative and easy

ALE SERIES
21
ANTS
Kinzey
gen Klaus
k Roszak

Please note, the swastika emblems on the tail have been removed from these photographs to comply with laws in countries where Model Airplane International is sold

P-51-NA, F-6A, & MUSTANG Mk. IA

WINDSCREEN & CANOPY DETAILS

A-73X through P-51A ariants

to follow. As usual the addition of Rock Roszak's wonderful illustrations makes these books invaluable. There are a 145 'pages' in this digital book filled with 245 photos, including 176 colour photos, as well as, 7 colour profiles and 10 illustrations.

The story of the P-51 is fairly well known. This book covers from the initial requirement to the production of the Allison powered aircraft. Starting out with the history section in a broad overview of the development. This section dispels the myth that the Mustang was to be designed with 120 days. This was not a fact. North American said they could do it quickly. I'd say 102 days is pretty fast. The new aircraft with laminar flow wings was a fast and sleek design. Despite some early problems the aircraft was put into production. The production was broken down into modules, similar to what a model builder would use. This section contains some really great photos.

Now that the history is covered, it is time to delve into each individual model, starting with the NA-73X and ending with the P-51A. The Mustang Mk.1 is covered in detail including pics of the cockpit with its spade style control stick. The XP-51 is covered next. They were from the initial British order, flown and tested by the USAAF. The P-51-NA is next up for coverage. The inclusion of the four 20mm cannons started turning the Mustang into a formidable ground attack aircraft. This version was also used for photo recon as the F-6A. The various camera set ups are shown in some informative pics.

The A-36A is the next chapter. There are some tidbits of knowledge in this section as it was the first variant to see widespread use in the USAAF. The colour photos in this section are inspirational to the modeler. There are plenty of walk around shots in this section.

The P-51A, which was essentially an A-36 without the dive bombing capability. There are some excellent colour photos, including cockpit and walk around photos. Extensive coverage of the entire airframe makes this book essential for those who have the Accurate Miniatures kits. Everything is covered.

Then comes the section I always read first, the Modelers Section. 1:72nd, 1:48 and 1:32 are covered. The inclusion of the new Halberd Models XP-51 review is particularly welcomed. The thing I like the best about this section is the unbiased and critical review of the kits. If there is a flaw, D&S mention it and usually offer a way to correct it.

Detail & Scale has done it again. Another fact and photo packed 'book' that is an essential reference to anyone's library. The review looked at the iPad version, but for those who are old school you can get it in printed version. For those digitally minded it is also available in a Kindle, Kobo or Google Play version. If you need that one book for your collection, this is that book. Another winner from Detail & Scale.

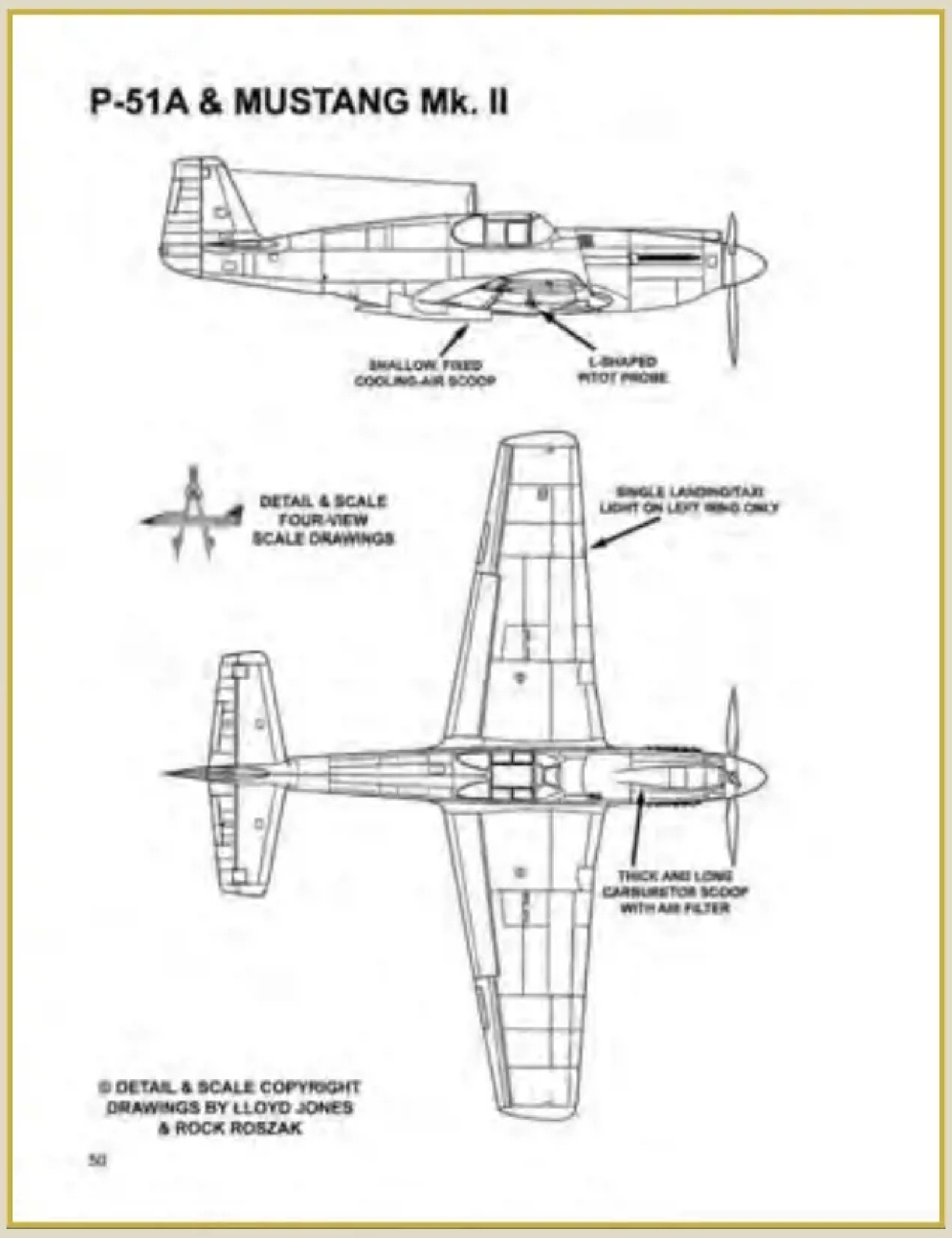
Highly Recommended.

Floyd S. Werner Jr.

Thanks to Detail & Scale for the review copy

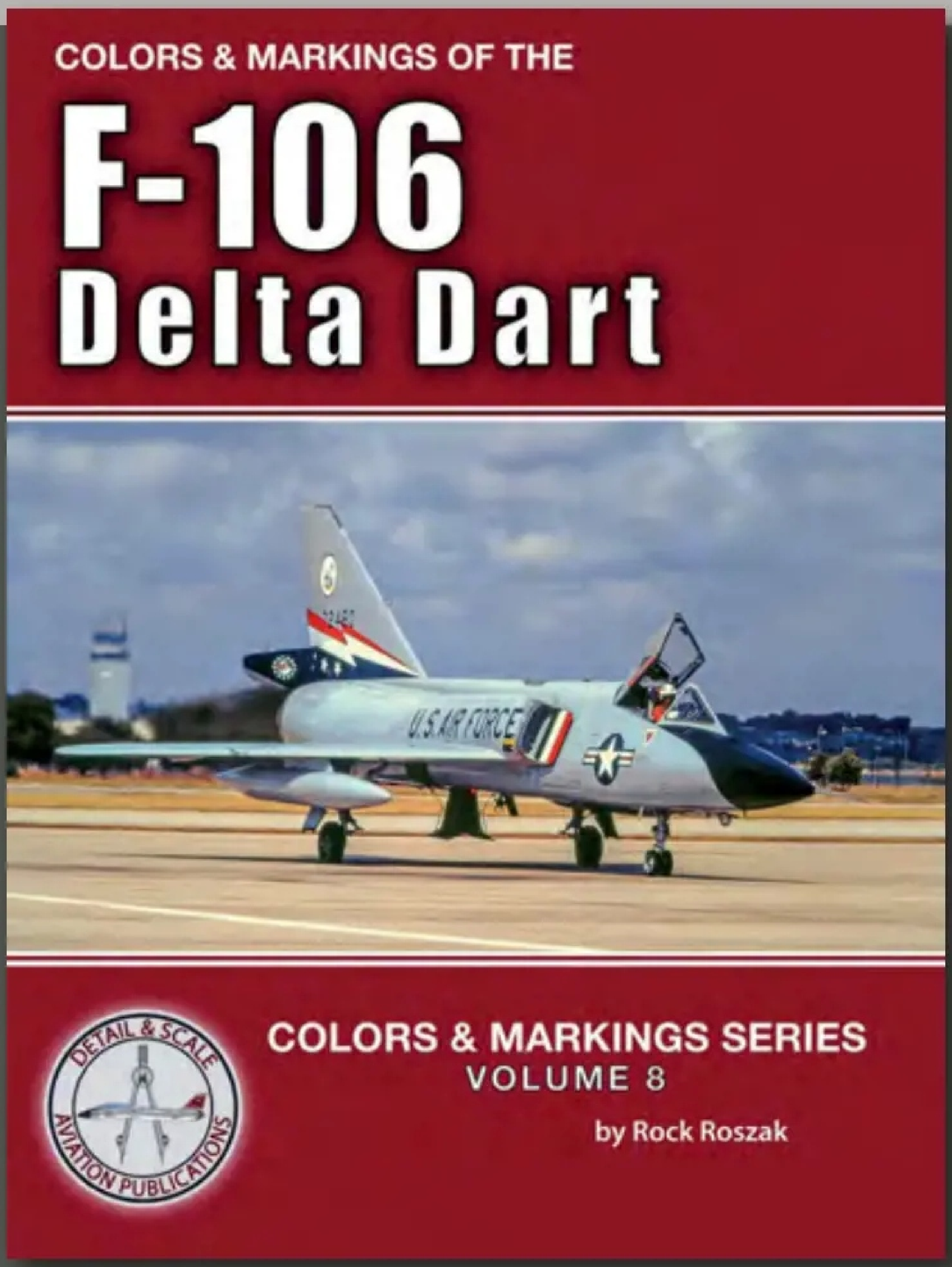
www.detailandscale.com

A-36A


P-51A & MUSTANG Mk. II

SHALLOW, FIXED COOLING-AIR SCOOP
L-SHAPED PITOT PROBE
DETAIL & SCALE FOUR-VIEW SCALE DRAWINGS
SINGLE LANDING/TAXI LIGHT ON LEFT WING ONLY
THICK AND LONG CARBURETOR SCOOP WITH AIR FILTER
© DETAIL & SCALE COPYRIGHT DRAWINGS BY LLOYD JONES & ROCK ROSZAK
50

IN PRINT



DETAIL & SCALE

Detail & Scale Volume 8

Colors & Markings of the F-106 Delta Dart: Colors and Marking Series

www.detailandscale.com

- **By Rock Roszak**
- **E-Book ISBN: 979-8-9886676-6-7**
- **Digital $16.99**
- **Printed $25.99**

The Convair F-106 Delta Dart was the last of the true Century Series fighters to be produced and fielded by the US Air Force. It was built at a time when it had some of the most colourful aircraft paint schemes ever.

As part of the Colours & Markings series of books, this book is oriented in the paint schemes worn by the F-106, both A and B models, throughout its career. This digital "book" features 191 pages of full colour, with 328 colour photos and 22 colour profiles beautifully rendered by Rock Roszak. The scope of these books is not the detail orientation of the Detail & Scale books but concentrates on the paint schemes and markings used by various squadrons.

To start the book off, overall paint schemes are discussed. The F-106 has been around since the late 1950s, so it should have gone through a variety of paint schemes from the natural metal to high vis to the overall grey markings to SEA scheme in its later years. However, it didn't happen, sticking with ADC Grey throughout its career. This doesn't mean it was boring. It sports some very colourful paint schemes. This is illustrated in plenty of colour photographs.

Each type of paint scheme is shown for the modeler to use on his/her model. The Dart sported the overall Air Defence Command (ADC), however, the Southeast Asia paint scheme was put out in a T.O. Excerpts of the technical orders calling for these paint schemes is incorporated into the book, even though there are no known photos of an F-106 in the SEA paint scheme.

There's a discussion of Delta Darts squadron markings that were approved by the US Air Force. Then the book breaks down to the individual squadrons, starting with Air Defence Command (ADC)/ Air Defence Tactical Air Command (ADTAC). I especially liked the "Spirit of 76" from the 318th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. The nose art from the 87th FIS at William Tell are quite unique.

This chapter is followed by the Air National Guard F-106 squadrons. Of course, the "City of Jacksonville" is one of the most famous F-106s flown by the 159th fighter interceptor squadron of the Florida ANG. The bicentennial paint scheme is spectacular.

Miscellaneous Units are shown in the next chapter. This chapter has all of the test aircraft, as well as NASA. There are plenty of red, blue and white aircraft here. Chase aircraft and target drones are included.

If you are looking for inspiration to do a F-106 model, this is that motivation. If you can't find something in here that will get you amped up to build a Dart there isn't anything that will. This book is typical of this entire series, exceptional photos of some unique and colourful aircraft. The 'book' is a great resource on a unique airplane. I don't think you will find a better reference for the colours and markings for the F-106 Delta Dart anywhere. So, break out your Monogram/Encore models and get to work.

The digital copy is available in four different formats, Apple, Kindle, Kobo, and Google Play. Why buy digital? First off, the pictures are absolutely crisp and perfect, and they can be enlarged just by pinching them. You also get more pages in the digital version than you do in a printed version. Once you've enlarged the photo you can print it as well as put it on your model bench for reference. It's like having a highly detailed photo album at your fingertips. For those that prefer old school there is a printed version available through Amazon.
Highly Recommended.
Floyd S. Werner Jr.
Thanks to Detail & Scale for the review copy
www.detailandscale.com ■

COMING SOON *IN THE* HOW TO BUILD... *SERIES*

HOW TO BUILD... *SERIES*

From the publishers of
Tamiya Model Magazine International
Model Military International
and Model Airplane International

DOOLITTLE
MEDIA

HOW TO BUILD THE
P-40E-N IN 1:48
SPOTLIGHT ON EDUARD'S P-40E WARHAWK
Brett Green

FEATURING
The work of Brett Green

INCLUDES
TWO ALL-NEW BUILDS PLUS:

- Historical summary
- P-40N Warhawk close-up
- Analysis and photos of ProModeler, Mauve, Academy, AMT, AmTech and Hasegawa 1:48 scale P-40E, F, L and N kits
- Eduard's new 1:48 P-40E in the box
- Step by Step - Tips and techniques for building the ultimate 1:48 P-40E Warhawk
- Aftermarket accessory summary

P-40E-N IN 1:48 SCALE

FEATURING EDUARD'S P-40E WARHAWK

The P-40 was a dependable warhorse produced in far greater numbers than any other USAAF fighter during 1941 and 1942, and one that continued to provide valuable service until the closing days of World War II. However, the Warhawk is often overshadowed or even ignored in the annals of aviation history because it did not shine as brightly as its more glamorous counterparts on both sides of the conflict.

Eduard's all-new 1:48 scale P-40E is an instant classic with its high level of detail, modeller-friendly design and class leading surface textures.

Between these covers, we provide an exhaustive step-by-step illustrated guide to building Eduard's new 1:48 scale P-40E plus tips on painting and weathering.

Additional inspiration is also offered with a second full build of the Mauve 1:48 scale P-40N, still widely available with re-issues by Eduard and Academy, using plenty of after-market accessories.

You'll also find history, reference, exploration of earlier 1:48 scale P-40 kits and more!

from just
£16.95

ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE HOW TO BUILD... *SERIES*

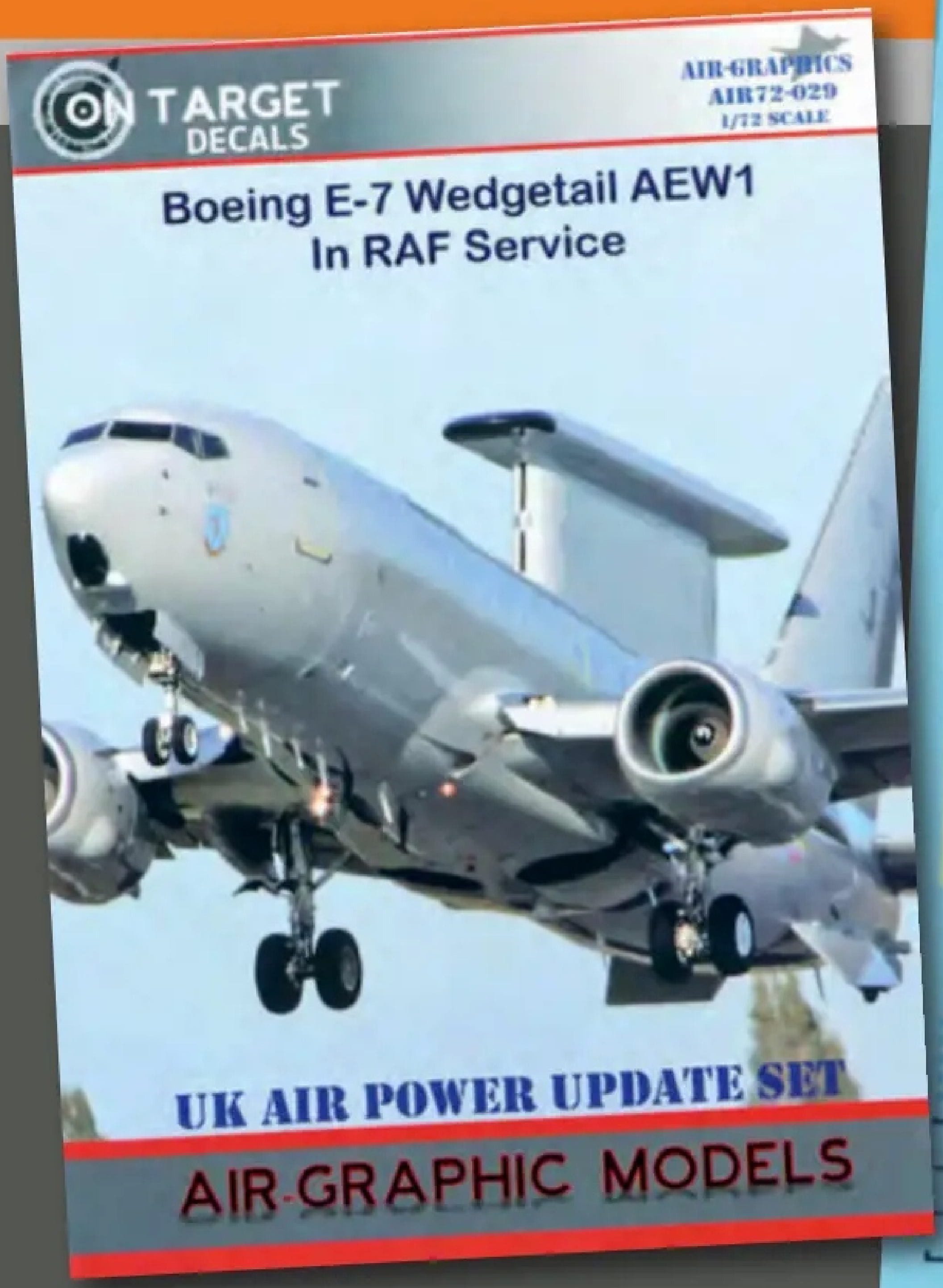
TAMIYA'S FAIREY SWORDFISH
TAMIYA'S BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER
TAMIYA'S 1:48 LOCKHEED P-38 LIGHTNING
TAMIYA'S 1:12 MOTORCYCLES
TAMIYA'S AIRCRAFT
TAMIYA'S ARMOUR
TIGER I
THE LEOPARD
TAMIYA'S 1:32 MOSQUITO FB.VI
TAMIYA'S 1:48 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.I
REVELL'S 1:32 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IIa
TAMIYA'S 1:32 SPITFIRE
TAMIYA'S 1:32 F4U-1 CORSAIR
TAMIYA'S 1:32 F4U-1A AND F4U-1D CORSAIR
AIRFIX 1:24 HAWKER TYPHOON Mk.Ib
REVELL'S 1:32 MESSERSCHMITT Bf 109 G-6

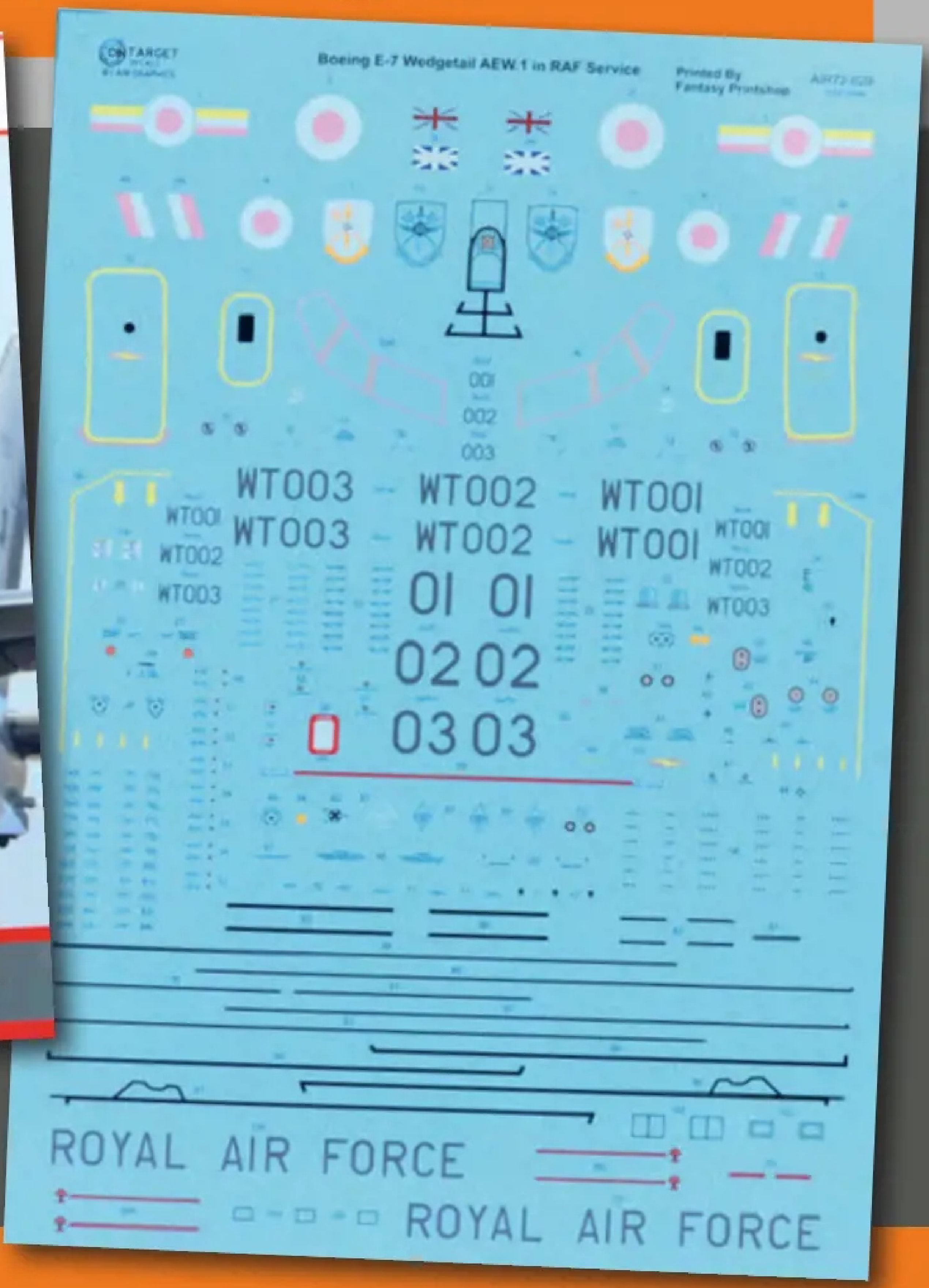
ORDER FROM WWW.DOOLITTLEMEDIA.COM

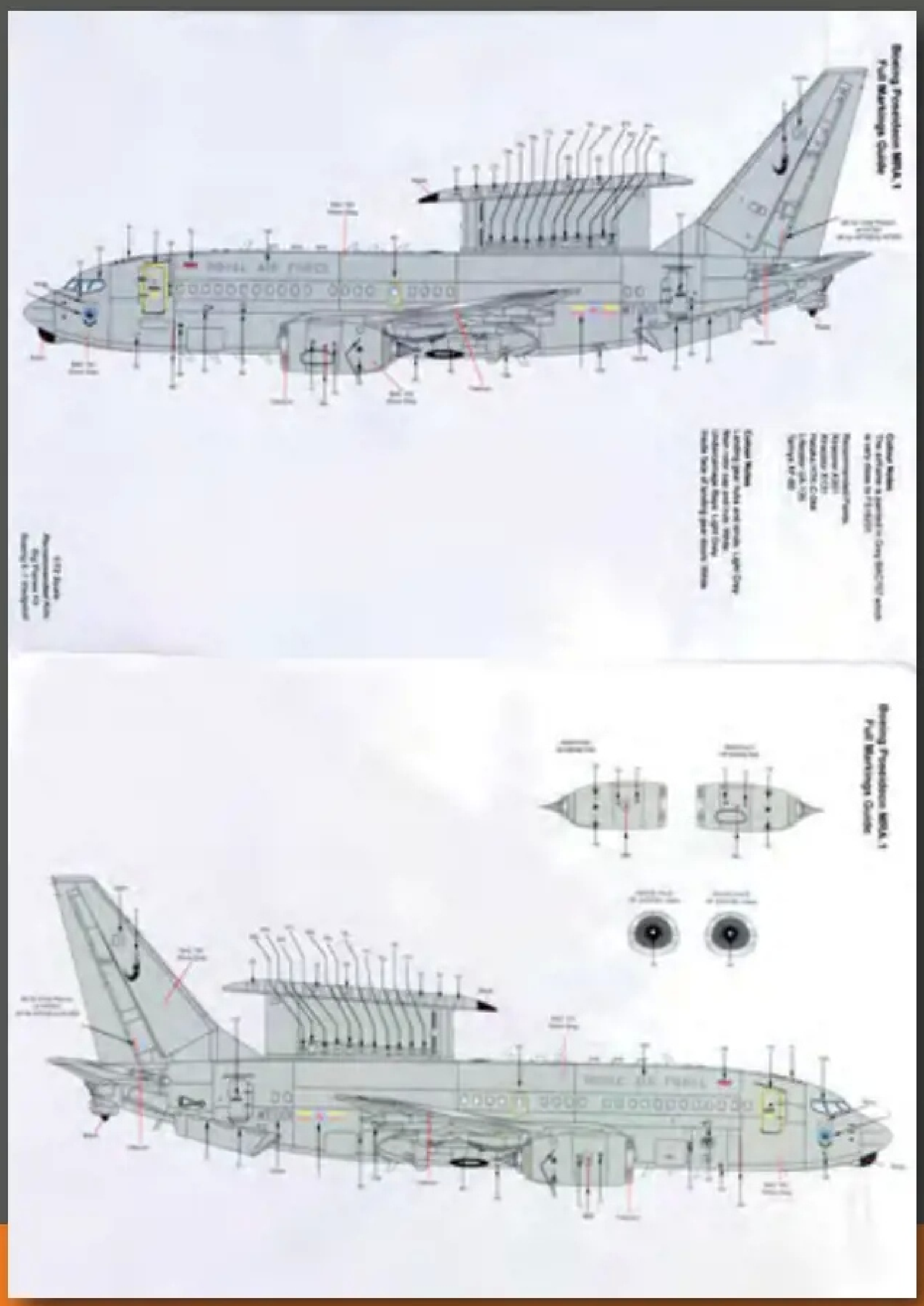
DOOLITTLE
MEDIA

TRANSFER LIST

Please note, the swastika emblems on the tail have been removed from these photographs to comply with laws in countries where Military Illustrated Modeller is sold


ON TARGET DECALS
AIR-GRAPHICS
AIR72-029
1/72 SCALE
Boeing E-7 Wedgetail AEW1
In RAF Service
UK AIR POWER UPDATE SET
AIR-GRAPHIC MODELS


ON TARGET
Boeing E-7 Wedgetail AEW 1 in RAF Service
Printed By Fantasy Printshop
AIR72-029
WT003 WT002 WT001
01 01
02 02
03 03
ROYAL AIR FORCE
ROYAL AIR FORCE


Boeing Poseidon MRA.1
Full Markings Guide
ROYAL AIR FORCE

ON-TARGET DECALS

www.artscale.eu

Boeing E-7 Wedgetail AEW1 in RAF Service

- **1:72 scale**
- **Air-Graphic Models Item No. AIR72-028**

Developed in Australia around the turn of this century for the RAAF, the Boeing E-7 Wedgetail uses the airframe of the Boeing 737 as a basis for an airborne early warning and control aircraft. It has been adopted by a couple of other forces, including the RAF as the AEW1. This decal sheet covers the first three airframes for the RAF, WT001-003 and allows any one of the aircraft to be built from the rather pricey BPK kit. Two sheets of decals are provided in a zip-lock sleeve, one a largish one and a smaller one with the distinctive squadron markings for the tail. The decal are beautifully printed with good colour, excellent register and depth and on a mid-blue sheet that allows paler items to be easily found. The sheet includes stencils and panel lines as well as door markings.

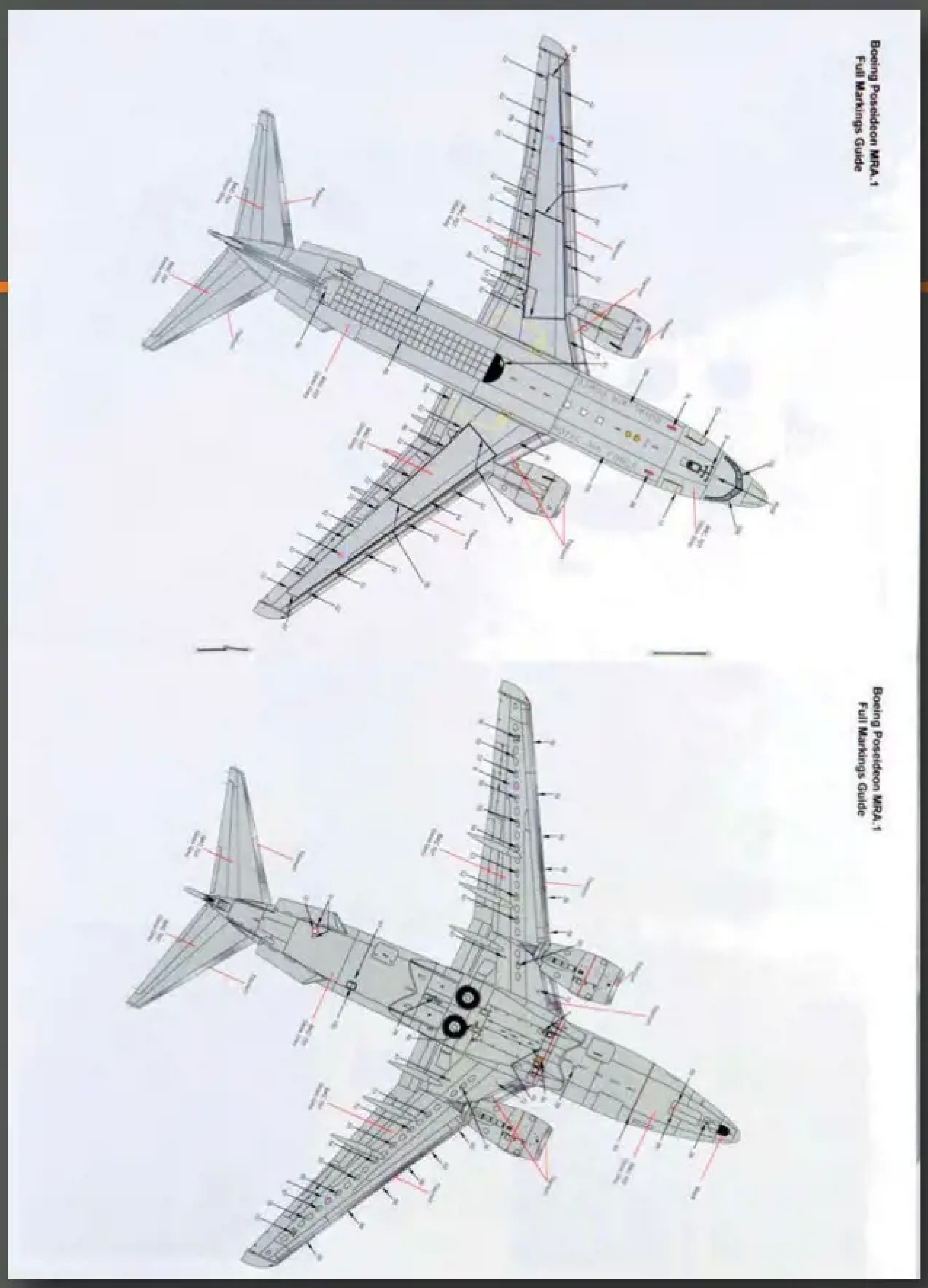
The instruction booklet of eight pages covers the decal locations for each airframe and includes two pages of colour photos of details such as undercarriage and fuselage scoops and bumps. Curiously, each plane is referred to as the Boeing Poseideon MRA.1 which is a different aeroplane, without the upper fuselage extension apparatus - weird! The cover has the correct Wedgetail name.

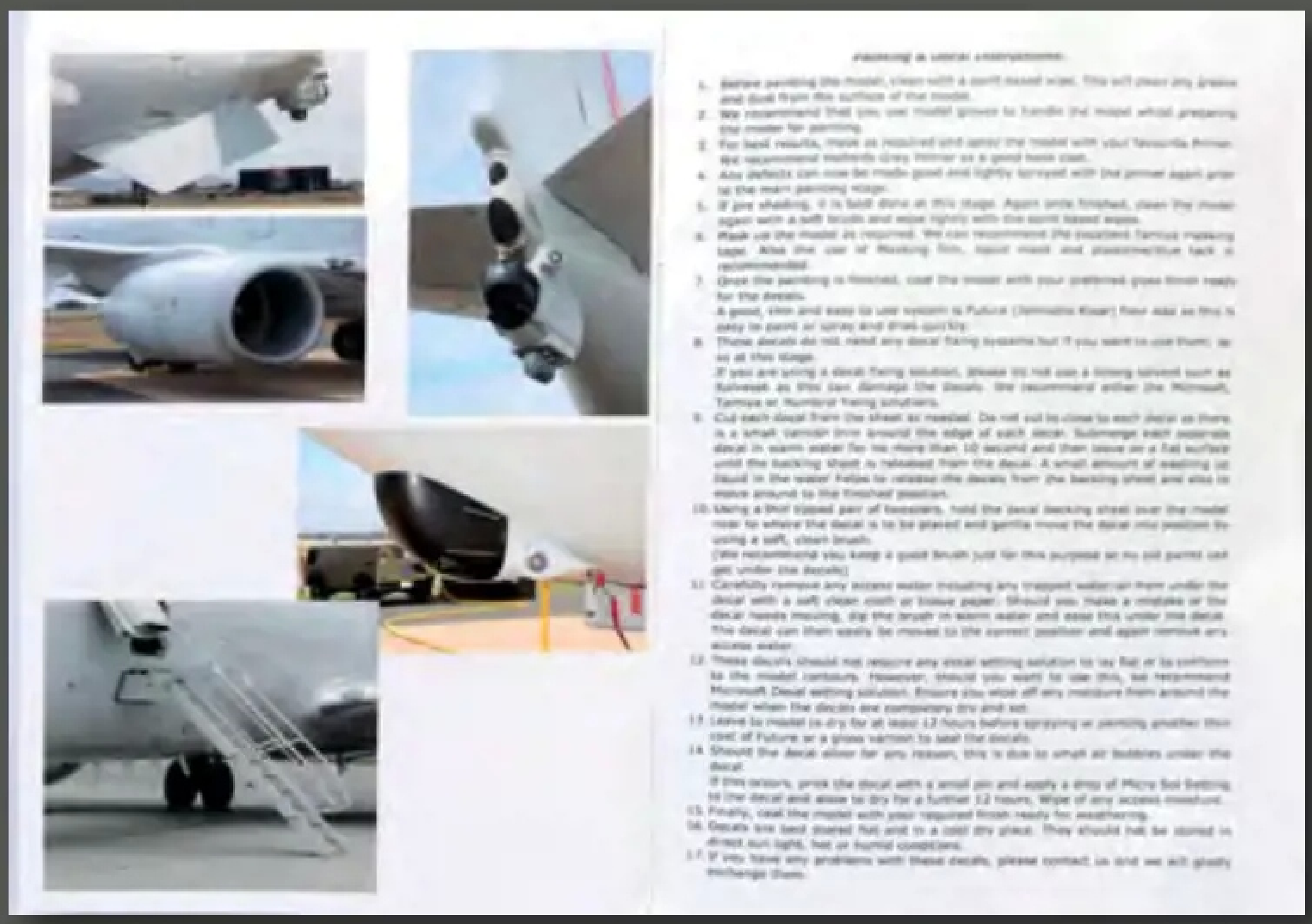
Despite this, it is a most useful sheet for an RAF aircraft and could possibly be used to add some markings to an Aussie aeroplane.

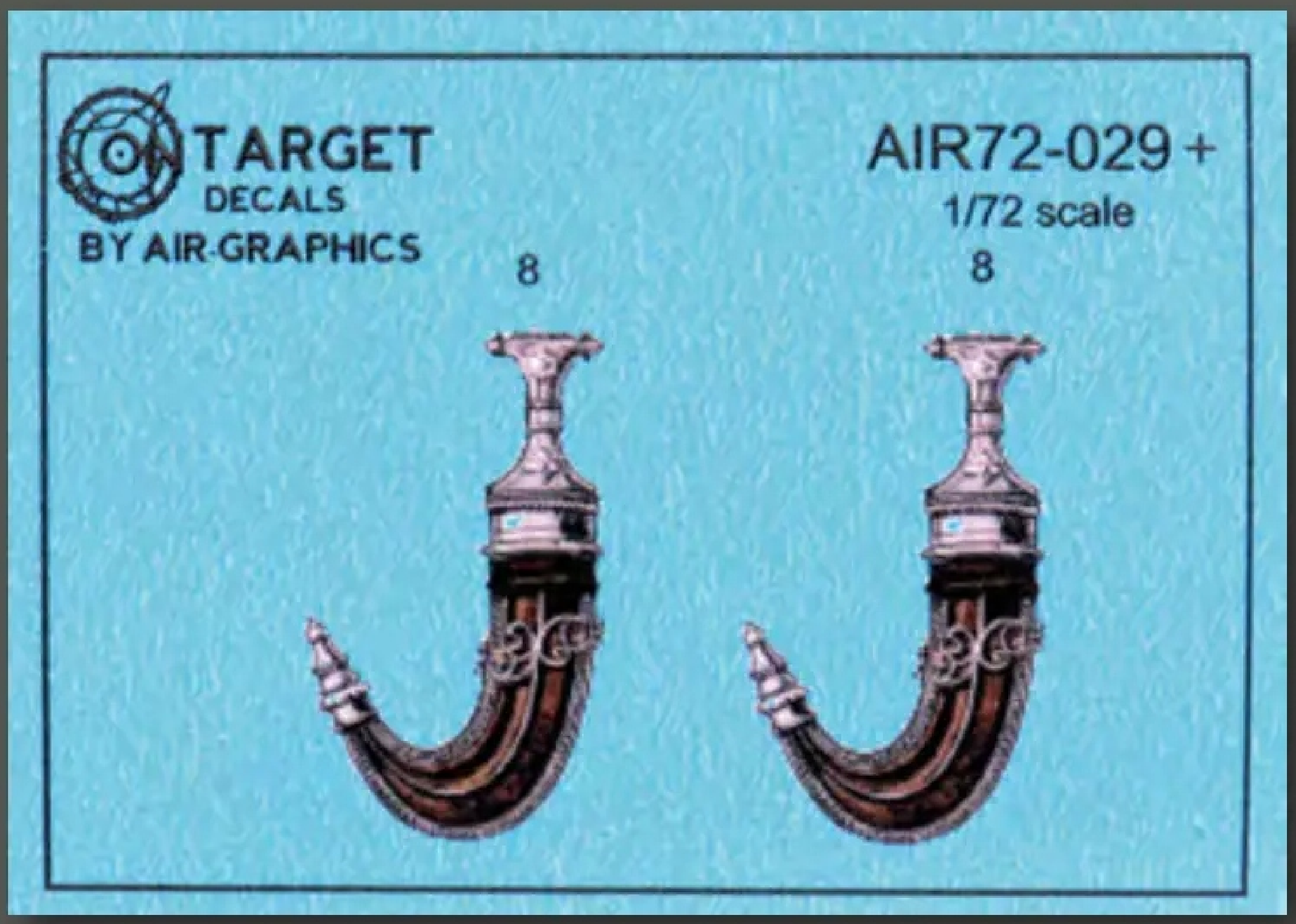
It is recommended to any modeller with deep pockets and room for this beast.

Recommended.

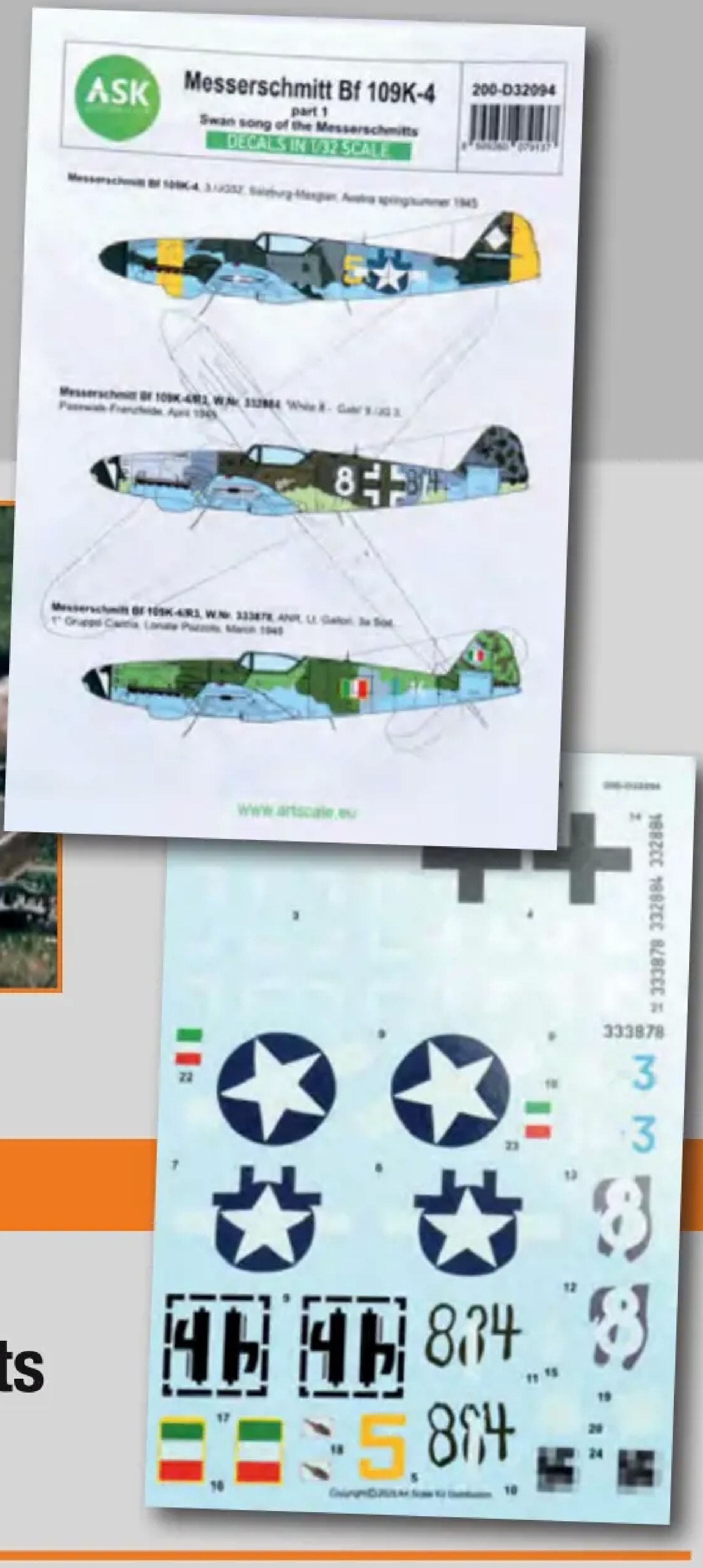
Graham Carter


Boeing Poseidon MRA.1
Full Markings Guide




ON TARGET DECALS BY AIR-GRAPHICS
AIR72-029 +
1/72 scale
8
8

Thanks to Air-Graphic Models for the sample ***www.air-graphics.uk***



ART SCALE KIT

www.artscale.eu

Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 Part 1 Swan Song of the Messerschmitts

- **1:32 scale**
- **Item No. D32094**

Art Scale Kit has released two new decal sets for 1:32 scale Bf 109 K-4 kits.

Today we examine Part 1.

There are two traditional 1:32 scale Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4s kits on the market right now - Hasegawa and Trumpeter - but this really is perfect timing for the all-new Kotare Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 that has just been officially released.

Markings are supplied for the following three subjects:

- Messerschmitt Bf-109 K-4, 3./JG52, Salzburg-Maxglan, Austria spring/summer 1945. ASK only gives us a single aircraft number Yellow 5 (port side). There are decals for depicting previously overpainted numbers on each fuselage side as well as decals representing roughly applied “last three” of the werknummer. Nice touch. Yellow Southern Theatre markings also lend colour and interest with a wide band around the engine cowling and yellow rudder. I would expect this aircraft would probably be finished in RLM 74 Grey Green and RLM 75 Grey Violet or RLM 83 Dark Green. The fin is likely to be a base of RLM 81 Brown Violet with hard-edged mottles of RLM 83 Dark Green. There may have been opersprayed patches of RLM 70 Black Green and the late-war pale version of RLM 75 Grey Violet in places on the fuselage. Check your references and take your best shot!
- Messerschmitt Bf-109 K-4/R3, W.Nr. 332884, “White 8 - Gabi” 9./JG 3, Pasewalk-Franzfelde, April 1945. The camouflage of this aircraft is well documented in a wartime colour photo.
- Messerschmitt Bf-109 K-4/R3, W.Nr.333878, ANR, Lt. Gallori, 3a Sqd., 1° Gruppo Caccia, Lonate Pozzolo, March 1945. Colours are called out as RLM 82 Light Green and RLM 83 Dark Green on the upper surfaces over RLM 76 lower surfaces. Previous Luftwaffe markings are painted over. The instructions suggest RLM 77 Light Grey but it might be any number of paints that were on hand at the time.

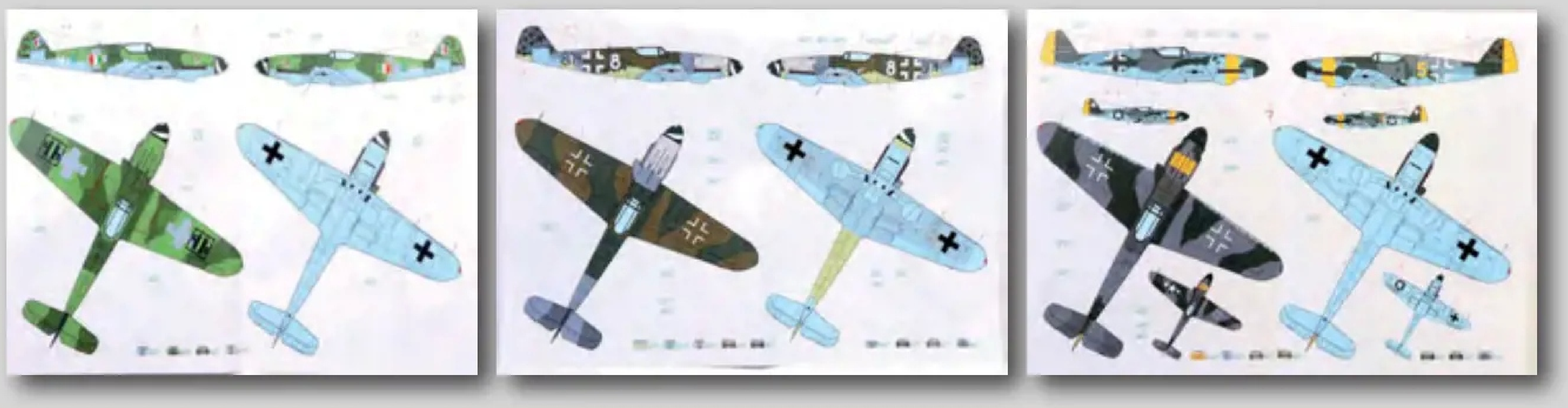
Instructions with reference and four-view illustrations for all three subjects are included.

Decal printing quality looks very good. The decals are glossy in finish. Apparently the clear top layer of the decals may be removed after application with lighter fluid, much in the same way as current Eduard decals.

If desired, the clear decal film can be removed by careful peeling or with a wash off Zippo lighter fluid.

These are nice looking decals that will offer an individualised finish for your 1:32 scale Kurfurst. Recommended.

Brett Green



Thanks to Art Scale Kit for the samples ***www.artscale.eu***

STAR WARS
BANDAI
© & ™ Lucasfilm Ltd.
Distributed exclusively in UK/Europe by Revell

Bandai Star Wars kits now available in-store & online from

hobbycraft

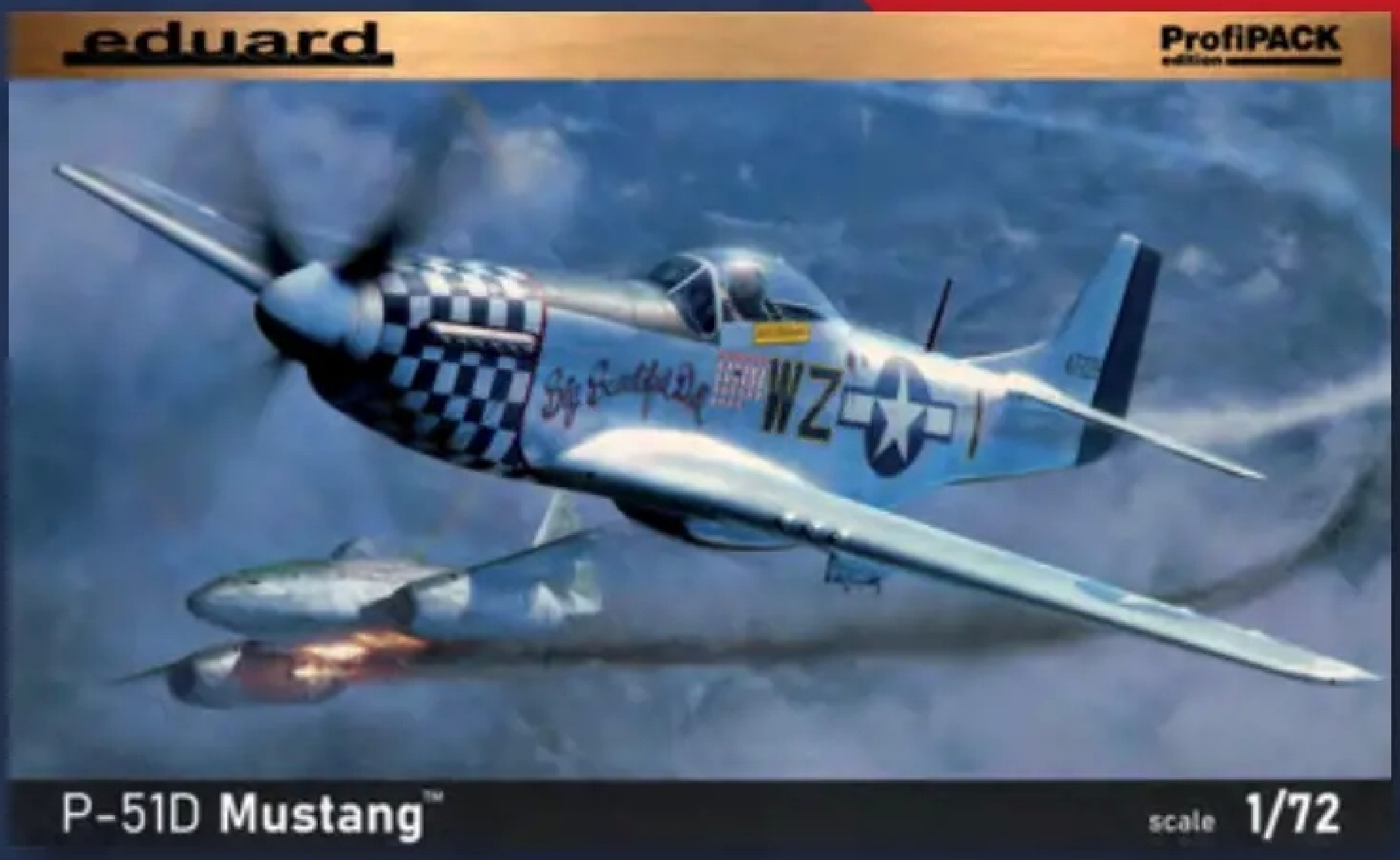
hobbycraft.co.uk

PREVIEW

1:72

SMALL SCALE STALLION

KIT PREVIEW Eduard P-51D Mustang ProfiPACK Edition • Kit No. 70173



Graham Carter reviews Eduard's 1:72 scale P-51D Mustang ProfiPACK Edition.

Eduard continues to make use of these wonderful sprues and again an enormous box contains parts to make one more Mustang from a number of UK based Air Forces, and one from the Pacific. The box has a great illustration of one of the decals choices, " Big Beautiful Doll" in NMF with a chequered nose downing Me 262.

The Eduard 1/48 P-51 D kits were welcomed with great reviews and this new 1/72 offering has attracted the same accolades. Brett reviewed the initial 1/72 Royal Class release in late July last year and I urge you to visit his detailed images and review, to which I can offer no more information apart from telling you of the different inclusion/deletions from the kit as well as the variety of decal choices.

Opening the box will reveal a 24-page coloured A4 instruction booklet which starts with a parts map indicating that some 75! parts should be consigned to the spares box. There is also a recommendation to Check the Latest Version of the Instructions on www.eduard.com. I had a look at this site and, as far as I could see, there are no differences from the provided instructions but you are welcome to look for yourself.

As a Profipack version there are a set of masks and a colour photo-etched fret that will greatly enhance this already wonderful kit.

The three large sprues are in dark grey plastic packed in clear resealable sleeves, along with a transparency sprue in its own sleeve.

The parts are beautifully moulded with subtle surface panelling and great detail. The cockpit alone is an outstanding piece of work, as are the wheel wells.

Then there is the decal sheet for the six examples with a smaller sheet of stencils and generic markings. As always these are beautifully printed with great register and density and commendably narrow carrier film. Some nose decorations come in several parts to get around nose contours and some will need a colour applied under the decal. All are from the last 8 months or so of the war. Most of them are in NMF overall with different tones as indicated in the diagrams.

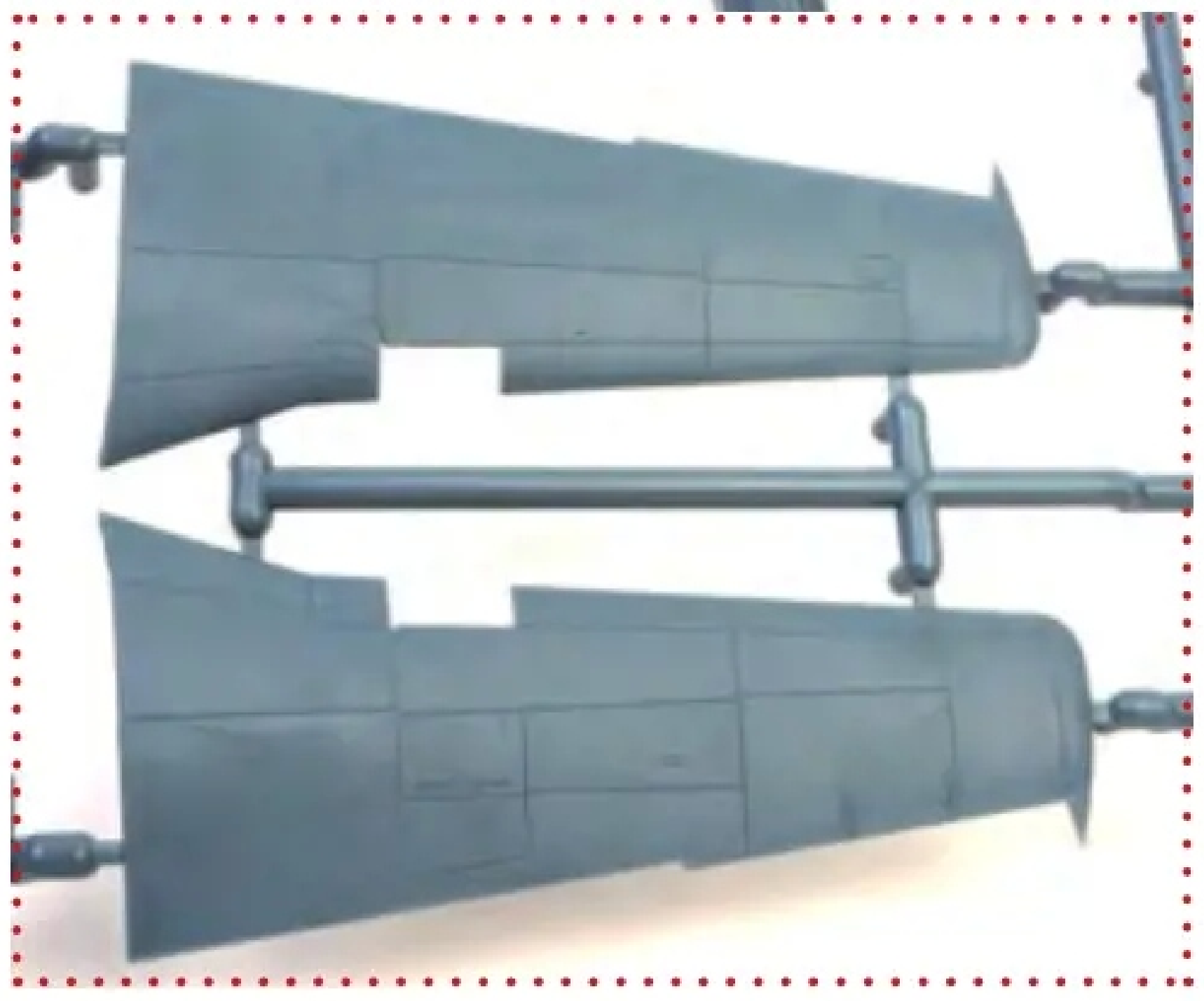
A separate decal sheet for stencils and miscellaneous markings is provided.

All-in-all a great selection of colourful schemes and decals to decorate your models with. The problem might be having to make a choice! This is where the Overtrees kits come into their own, or you could share them with kits from other manufacturers. Each choice is illustrated with a full page colour drawing showing decal locations and colour notes with reference to Gunze Aqueous and Mr Color. The final pages contain detailed stencil placement drawings and a catalogue of accessories that will further enhance this amazing kit.

As usual the instructions are wonderfully clear with each step shown accompanied by colour notes. I would thoroughly recommend deciding which ones you wish to build and then firstly remove all unused parts from the sprues and mark the booklet with a highlighter so that you have a clear guide as to which steps and parts you will be using. So, if "Big Beautiful Doll" is your choice, then go through and highlight every step which applies to choice "D" . Each decal choice is identified by letters so take note and care!! Once this is all attended to, then you will have a painless and enjoyable build. I am sure some truly great replicas will result from this wonderful kit and it comes highly recommended to those of you with an interest in this iconic war-plane.

Eduard again meets the demands of modellers with a wonderful kit of this iconic aeroplane that sets new standards of parts, decals and instructions. Highly recommended. Get in and stock up on this series now. ■

Thanks to Eduard for the sample
www.eduard.com



Model AIRPLANE INTERNATIONAL

SQUADRON BOOKS

10271
TBD Devastator
Dana Bell
In Action
Squadron Signal

10272
AJ Savage
David Doyle
In Action
NF
NAVY
Squadron Signal

NEW
10271 TBD DEVASTATOR
IN ACTION

NEW
10272 AJ SAVAGE
IN ACTION

In Action books are books that trace the development of a single type of aircraft, armoured vehicle, or ship from prototype to the final production variant. Experimental or "one-off" variants can also be included. The first In Action book was published in 1971.

ALSO AVAILABLE

B-36 Peacemaker
David Doyle
In Action
Squadron Signal

10270 B-36 PEACEMAKER

10269
F-16 Fighting Falcon
David Doyle
In Action
Squadron Signal

10269 F-16 FIGHTING FALCON

DETAIL IN ACTION
- B-25 MITCHELL
- M19-M20 TANK TRANSPORTER
- F8F BEARCAT

AIRCRAFT WALK AROUND
- SAAB 37 VIGGEN
- HEINKEL HE 111
- F9F COUGAR

ARMOUR WALK AROUND
- VALENTINE TANK
- PRE-STANDARDIZED JEEP
- PANZER 38(T)

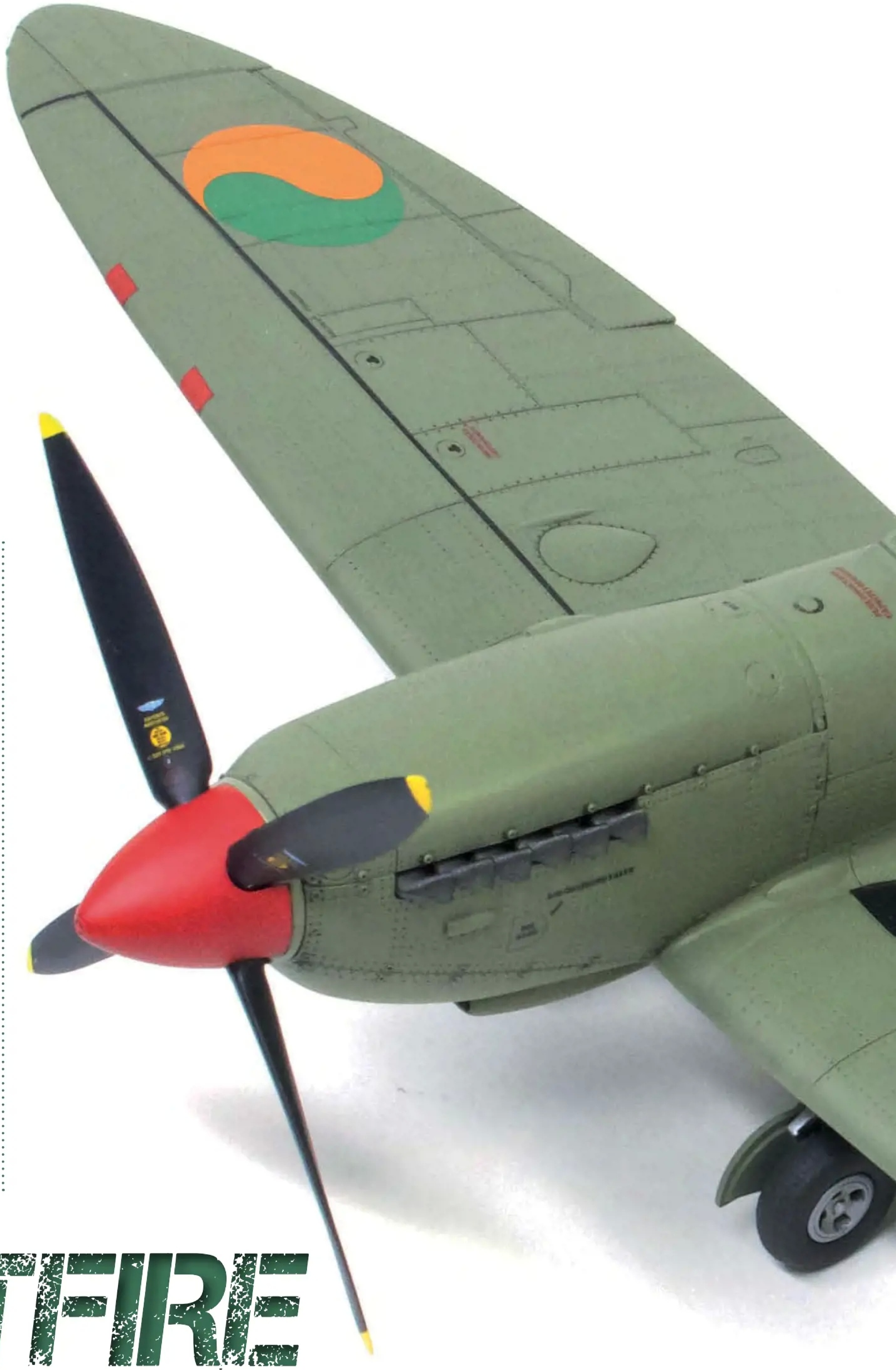
And hundreds more...

www.doolittlemedia.com

E. enquiries@doolittlemedia.com **T.** +44 (0) 1525 222573

Doolittle Media Ltd. The Granary, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX

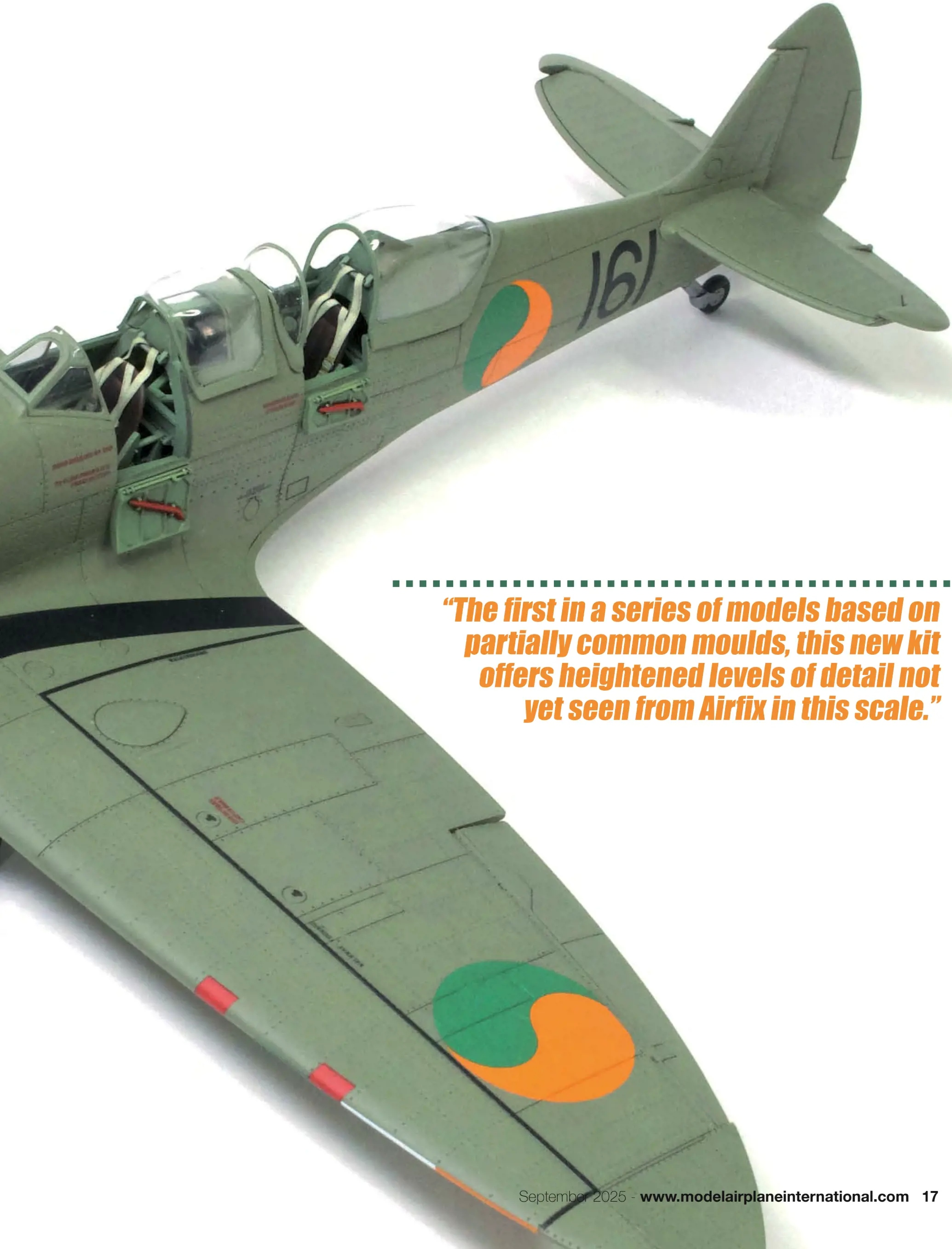
Airfix 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire TR.9 • Kit No. A05143



With so many airworthy two-seat Spitfires currently offering members of the public once-in-a-lifetime flight experience opportunities around the country, it's interesting that every Spitfire T.9 started as a single-seat fighter, either a Mk.VIII or more commonly, a Mk.IX. Also, despite the Spitfire being arguably the most famous fighting aeroplane in history, with over 20,000 aircraft eventually produced, no official two-seat training variants were produced during the Second World War. A post-war phenomenon, the current fleet of Spitfire T.9s is helping to preserve the legacy of this magnificent aircraft. (Airfix Info). ▶

A SPITFIRE MADE FOR TWO

Spencer Pollard adds another model to his rapidly increasing collection of 1:48 Spitfires, the brand-new Airfix Spitfire TR.9



> *“The first in a series of models based on partially common moulds, this new kit offers heightened levels of detail not yet seen from Airfix in this scale.”*

Airfix 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire TR.9 • Kit No. A05143

IN THE BOX

I have to say that I wasn't instantly enthused by the idea of a Spitfire TR.9 in miniature. Undoubtedly the ugliest of the Spitfire variants, I took only a passing interest in its announcement. Now that it's here though, good Lord! What a lovely kit it is and a real step up from the other Spitfire kits Airfix have released, lovely though they are as well

Detail is superb, most notably the surface detail, rivets and panel lines, which certainly give Eduard and their much-vaunted family a kits, a run for their money. You can certainly see how much of the 1/24 kit's design has influenced this one and if this is any indication of what the upcoming 1/48 Mk.IX will look like, modellers are in for a real treat when that kit hits the model shop shelves, later this year…

This new approach to the surface detail is to be applauded. Though the earlier Spitfire kits such as the Mk.I/V are very nice, the lack of riveting was noticeable, each one looking a little too smooth. This one deals with that issue and though I would happily have seen them a little less pronounced, there is no doubt that they add to the look of the completed model, rather than detracting from it.

Across the board, detail is neat and tidy and assembly, an absolute breeze. Having built both the Airfix Jaguar and Tamiya F-35C recently, I was on the lookout for something quick and easy. This kit certainly fit the bill. The box contains only what is needed to build your TR.9, with little in the way of whistles and bells. As such, construction takes almost no time on the way to painting. Indeed, the most amount of time will be spent within the detailed cockpits, gluing the little parts together and then painting the results.

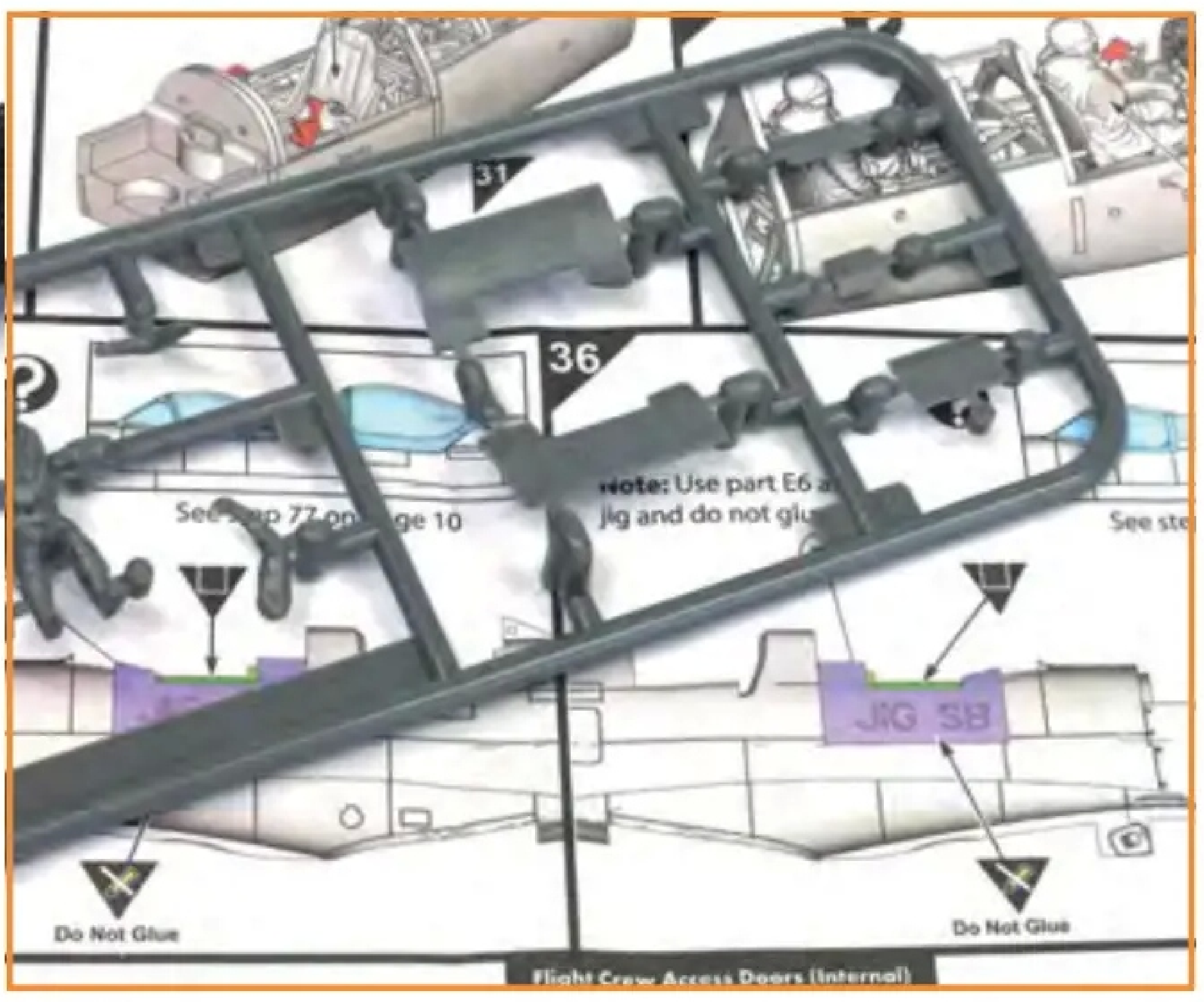
The cockpits, for there are two of them, are tidily detailed with all major components in place. Framing is complete, as are the seats, flight controls and instrument panels. There are even two pilots to populate the spaces, though I have to say that their detail did little to inspire use. Instead, I created two empty cockpits, adding Eduard seat belts to complete the picture. Talking of pictures, the instrument panels are decorated with bezels that you will find on the decal sheet and though these fit very well, I did as usual manage to misalign a number of them much to my annoyance. One day I promise you, I will get this part of a build, right!

The airframe is broken down in such a familiar way I doubt anyone would struggle to put it together, even without instructions. Fit is very good indeed, only a few minor seams needing to be attended to before you can paint the exterior finish. Amongst these joints are the forward wing roots, the lower wing to fuselage joint and the seam that runs over the oil tank. None require filler, but they do need some attention with sanding sticks and then a little rescribing to reinstate removed panel lines.

As usual with a kit of this nature, there are separate control surfaces, open and closed canopies, and the chance to drop the cockpit doors to have a better look inside. No separate flaps are included, which seems sensible to me, these being retracted when the aircraft is on the ground. Having separate control

▶

Construction began by drilling out the lightening holes around the cockpit frames.


31
36
Note: Use part E6 a jig and do not glu
See step 77 on page 10
See ste
JIG SB
Do Not Glue
Do Not Glue
Flight Crew Access Doors (Internal)

Should you wish to have the canopy closed, jigs are provided to guide the removal of plastic from the upper sills.

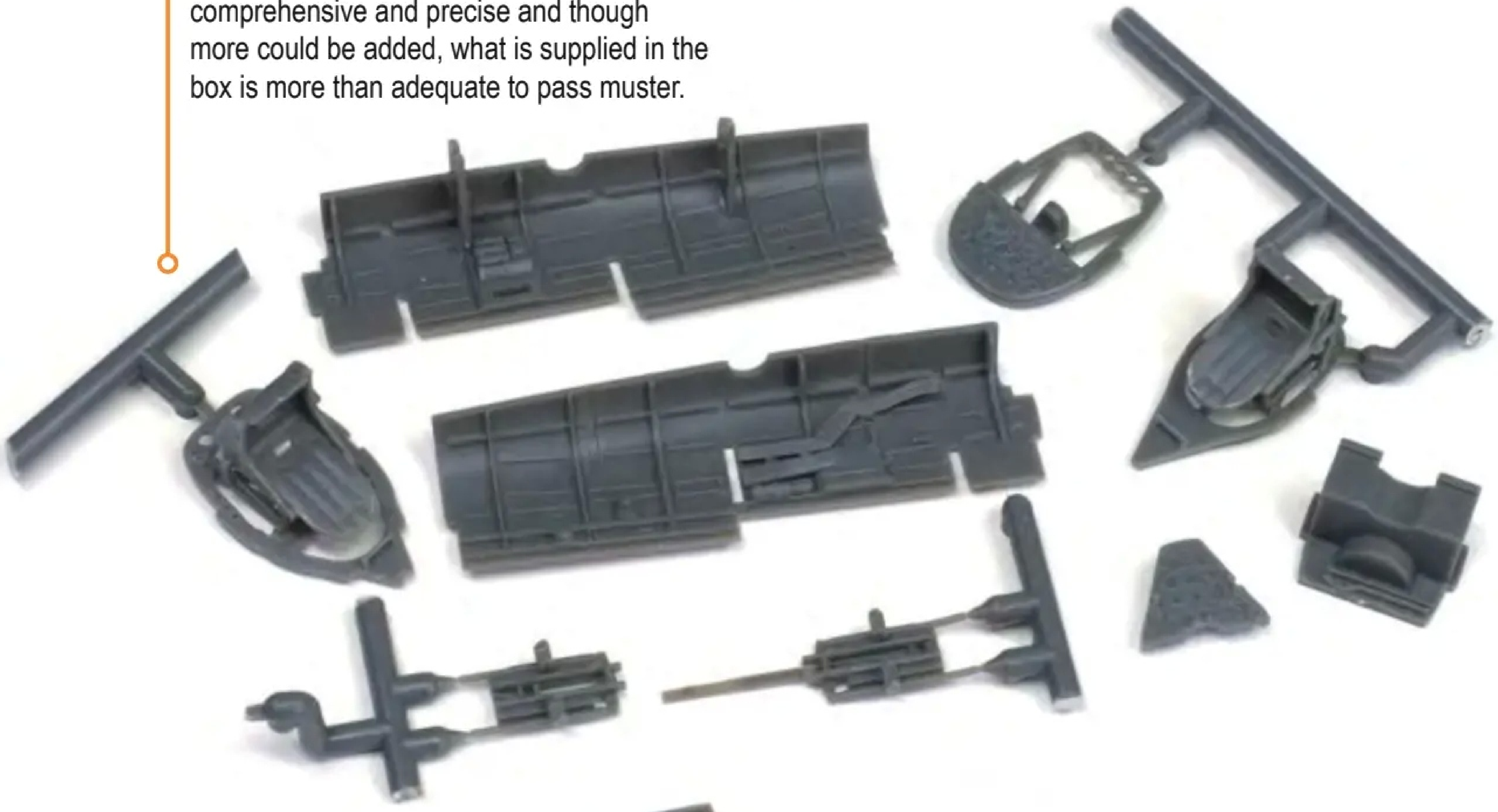
TAMIYA CEMENT
SUITABLE FOR PLASTIC HOBBY KITS

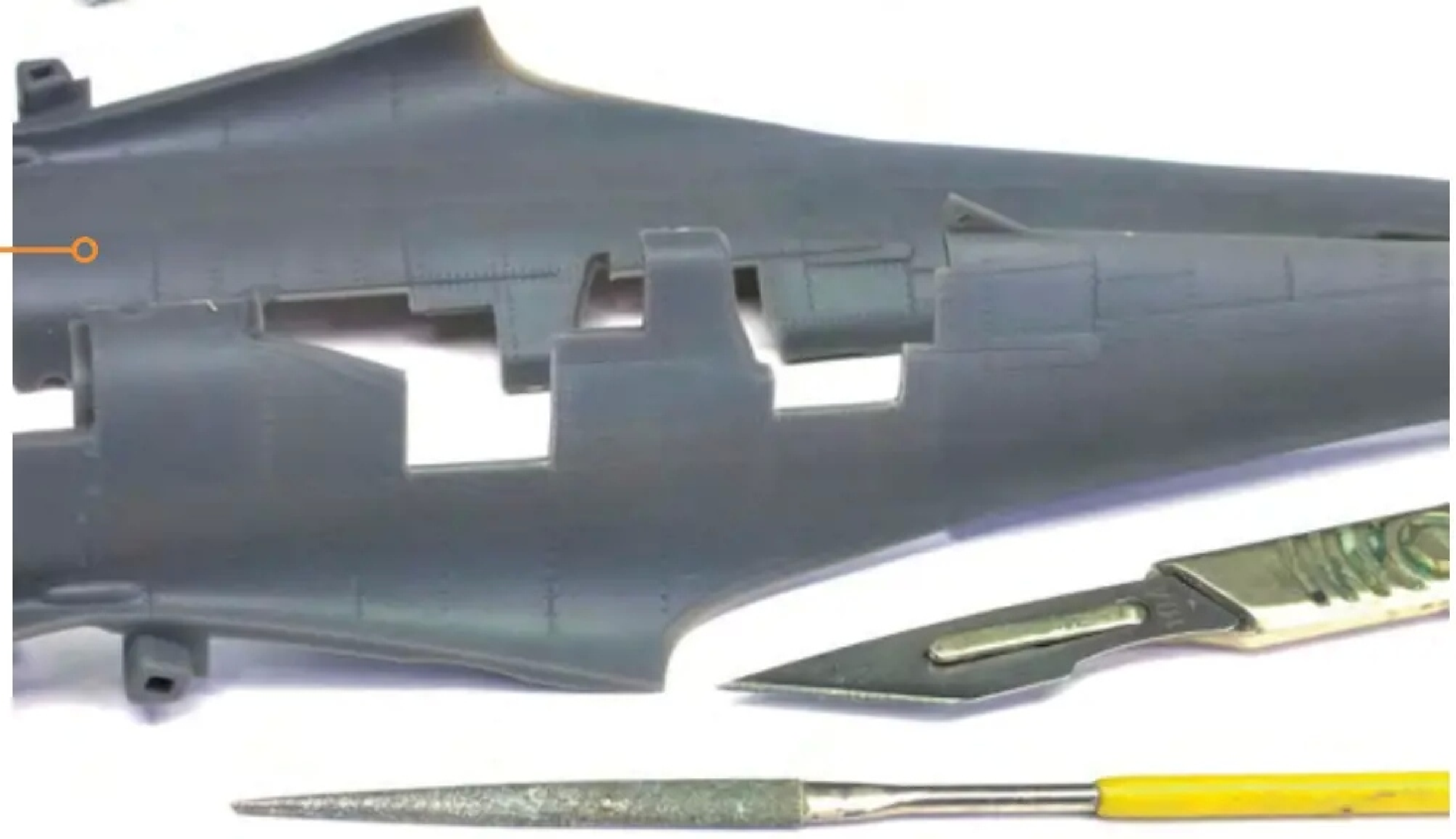
Simple spars that flank the gear bays, provide stiffness and strength inside the wing's centre section.

TAMIYA EXTRA THIN

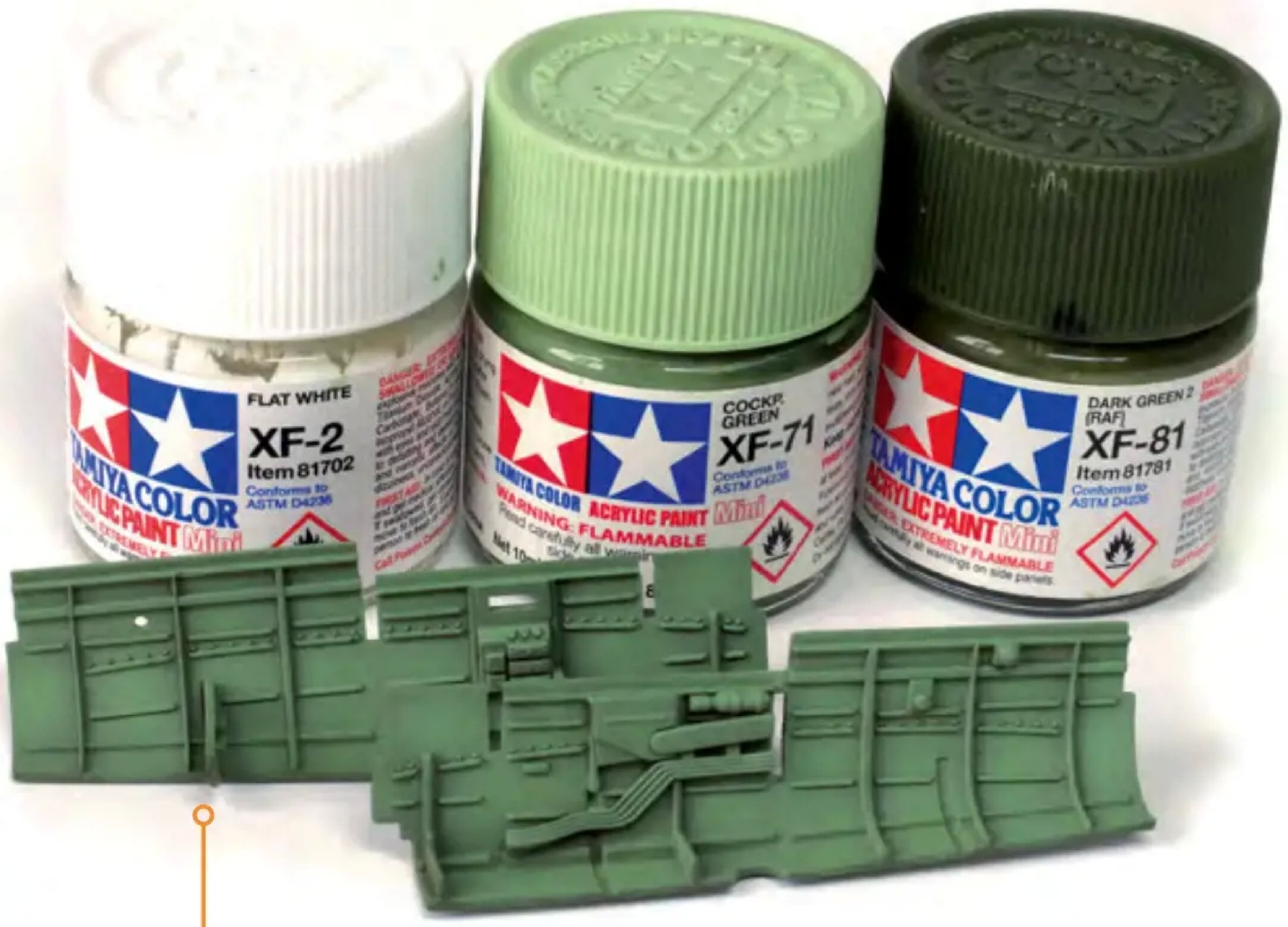
I often simplify painting by keeping sub-assemblies on the runners. Here the seat, its frame and the instrument panel, are joined ready for painting.

All of the cockpit sub-assemblies ready for painting. Detail within the cockpit is comprehensive and precise and though more could be added, what is supplied in the box is more than adequate to pass muster.

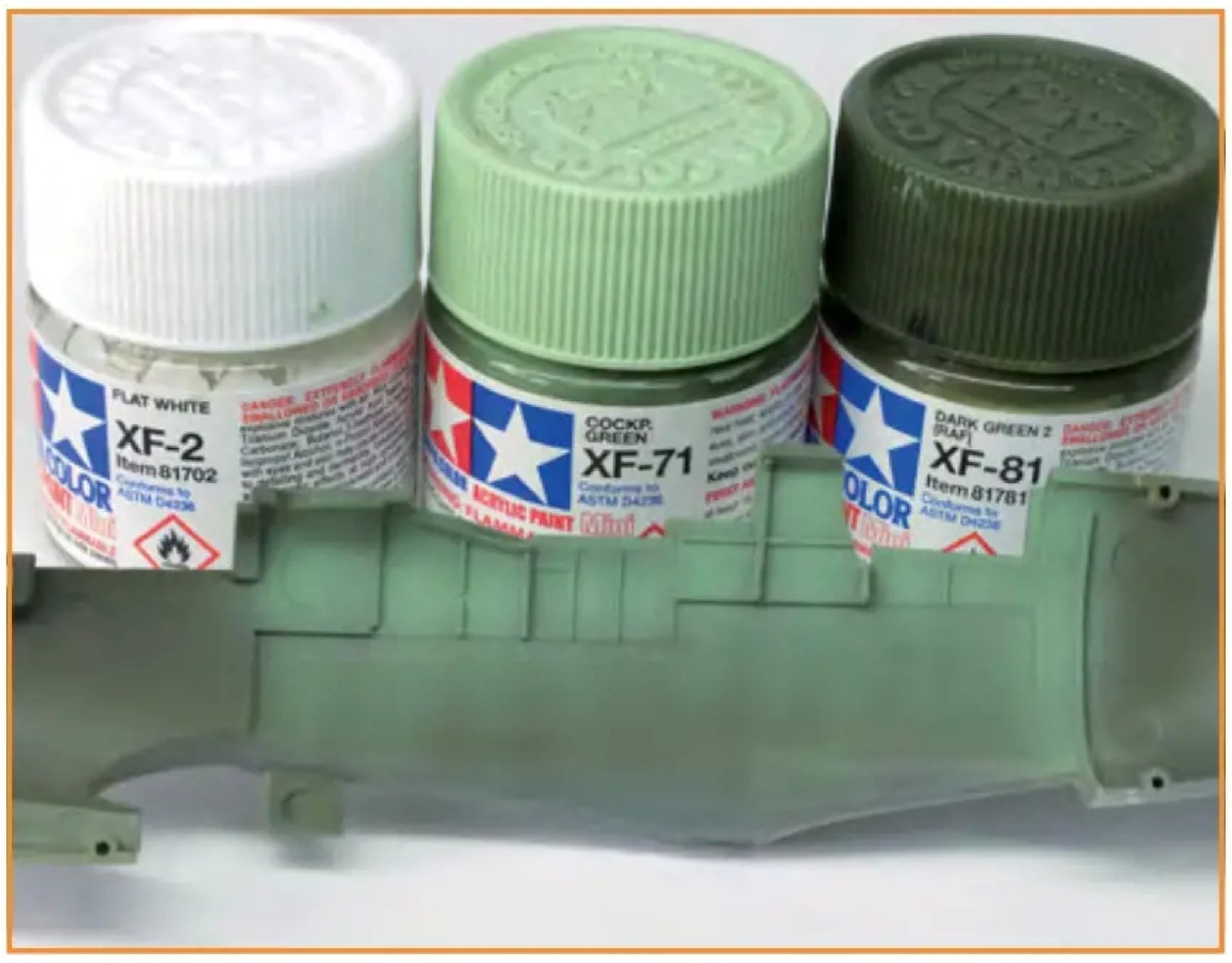




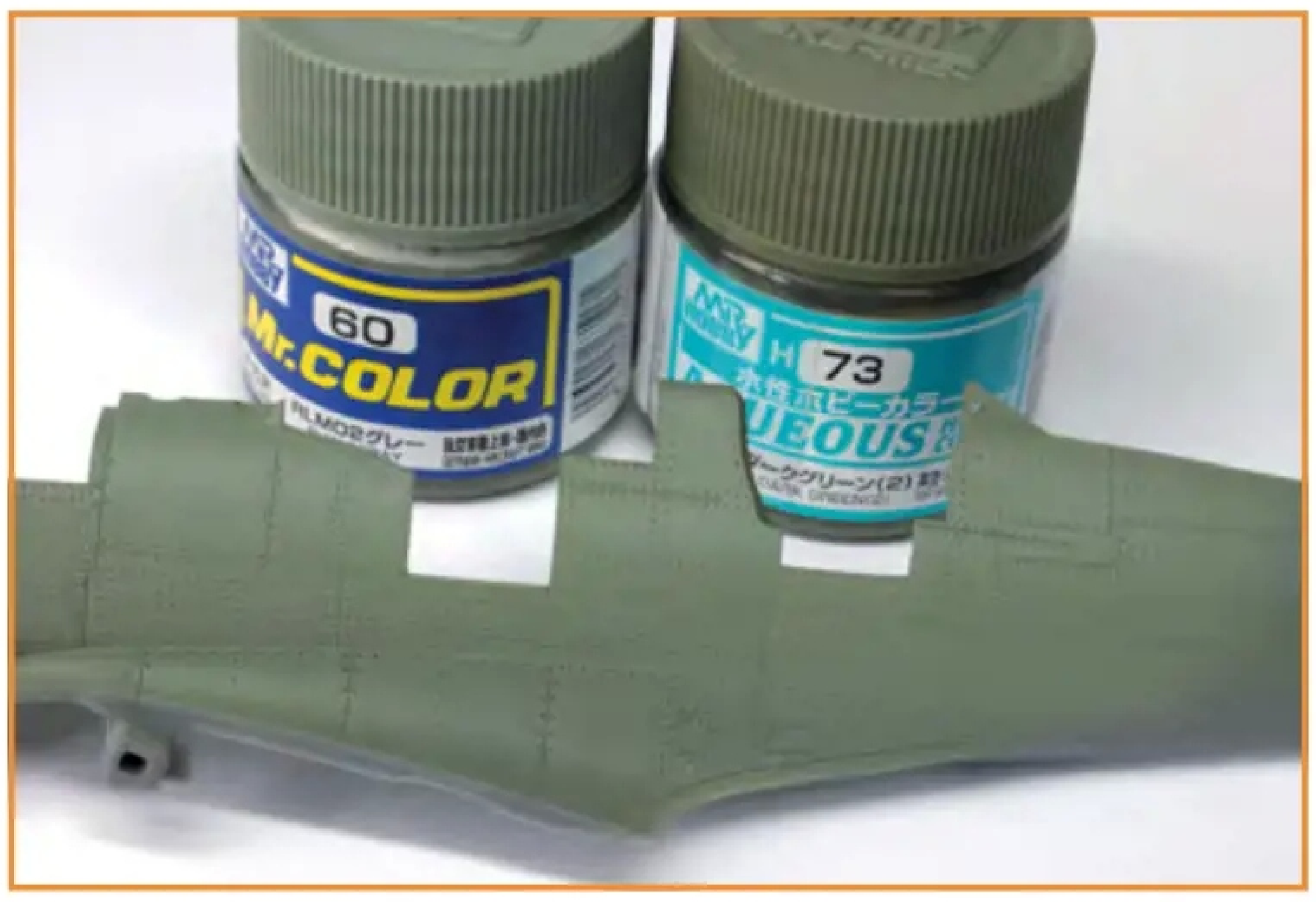
The drop-down doors for the cockpits are moulded in situ so need to be carefully cut away. Here that has been done ready for separate parts to be glued in place during final assembly.



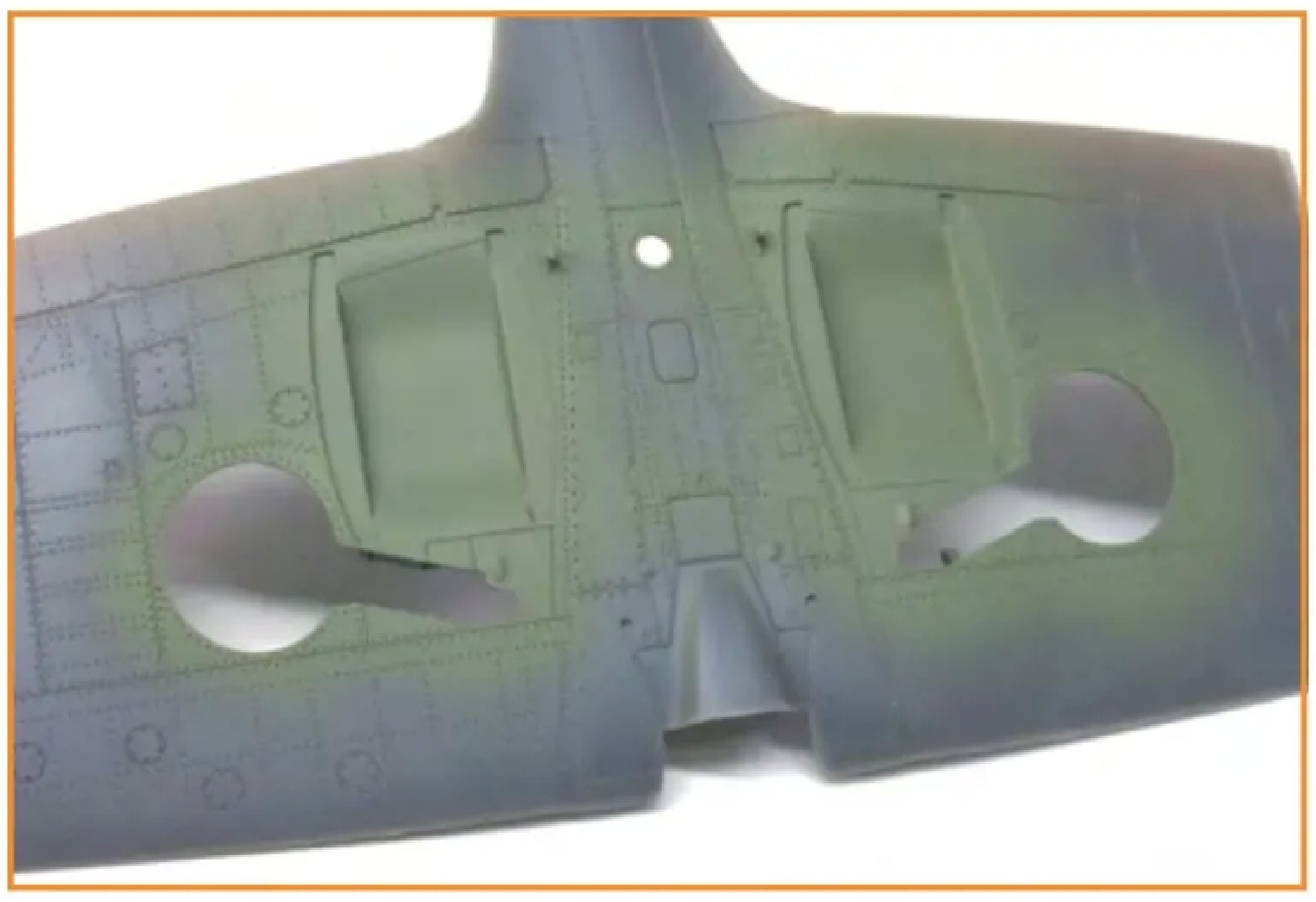
The cockpit interior was base coated with Tamiya RAF Dark Green 2 and then oversprayed with a mixture of Cockpit Green and white, the latter colour being sprayed over larger panels and in-between smaller details.



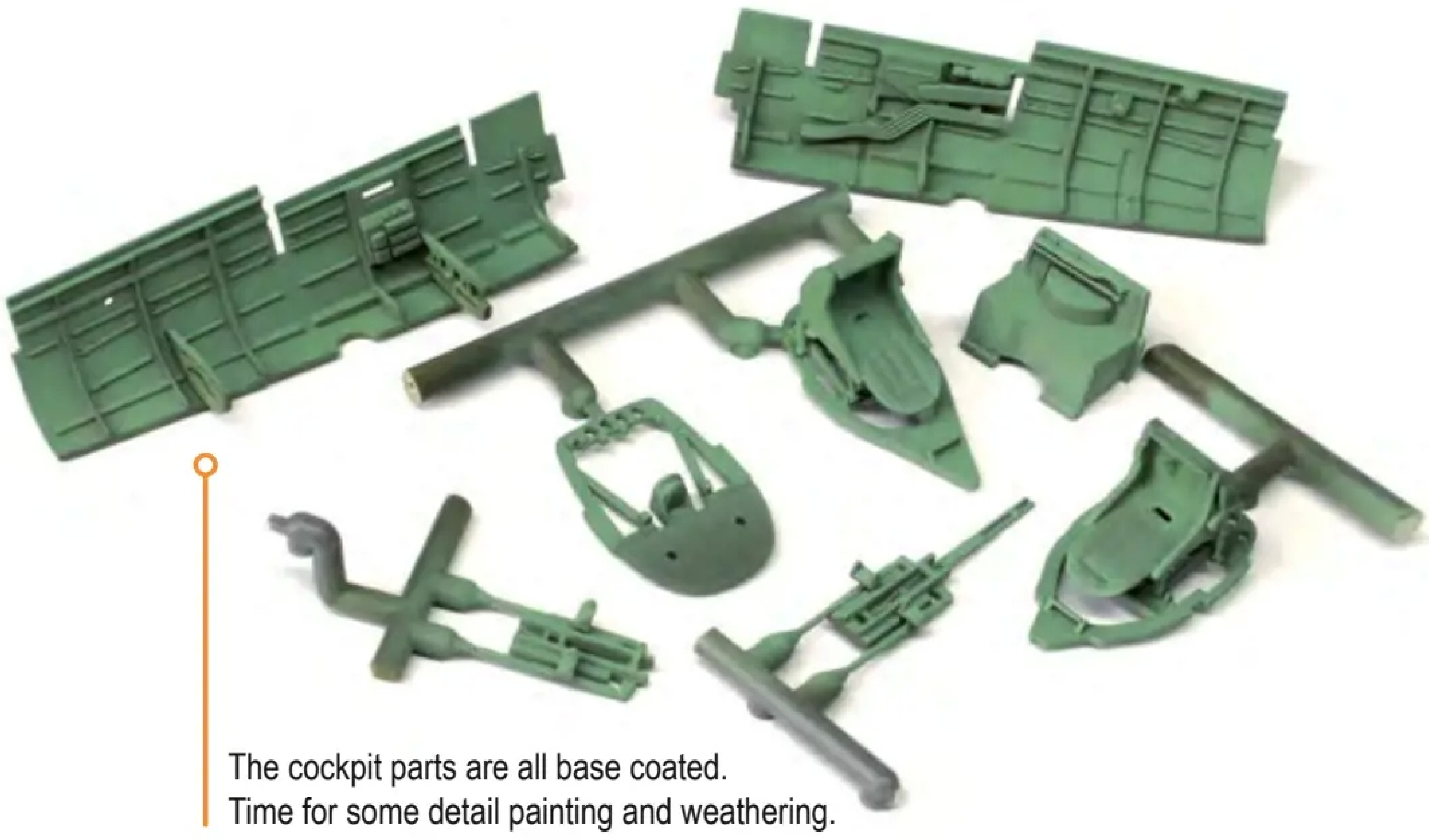
Here, the same process has been used around the upper cockpit surfaces. This is a simple way of adding highlights and shadows in areas such as this.



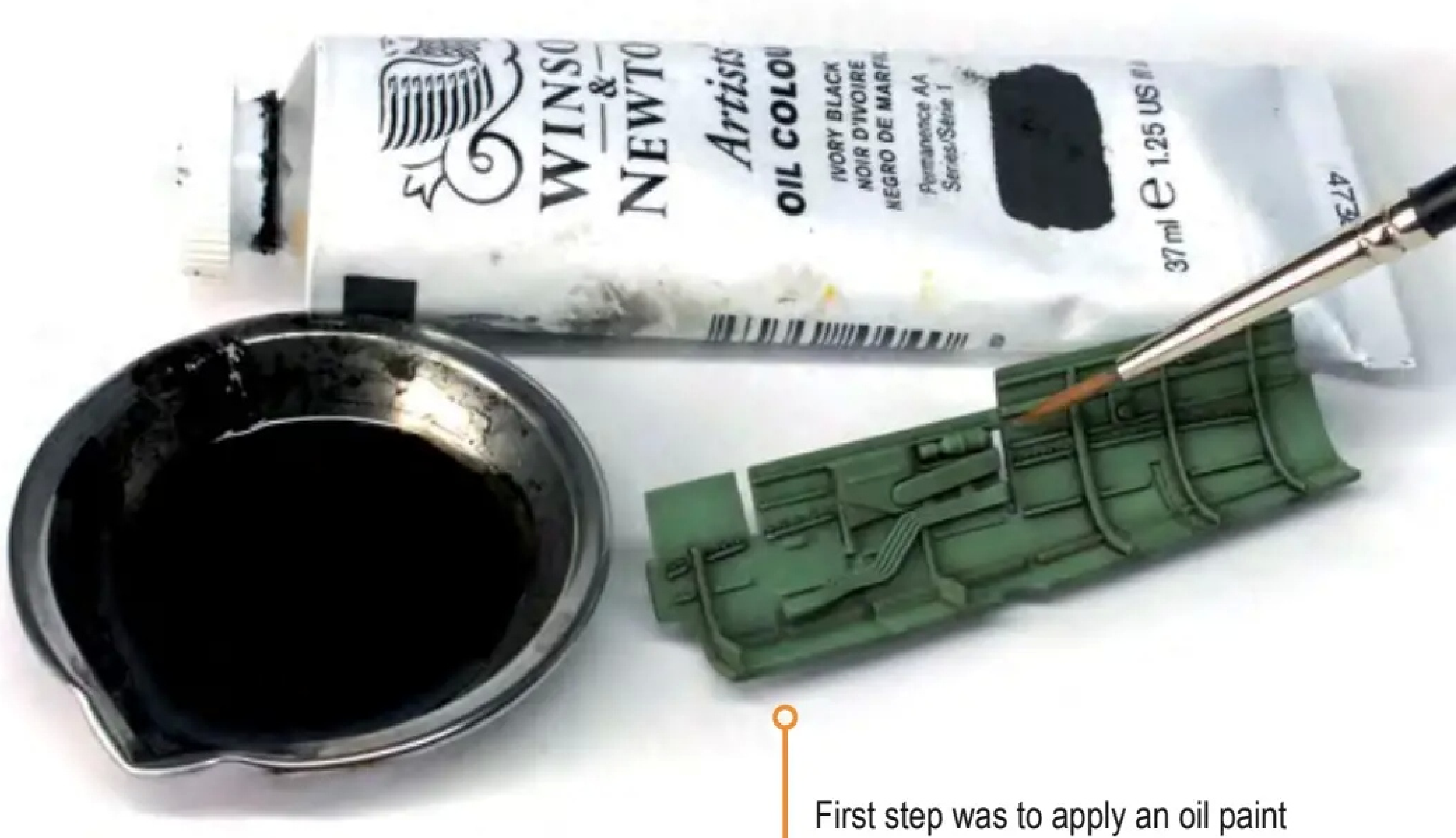
Before joining the fuselage halves, the outer panels were sprayed with a layer of my custom grey-green colour. Doing this, cuts down on a considerable amount of masking, later on.



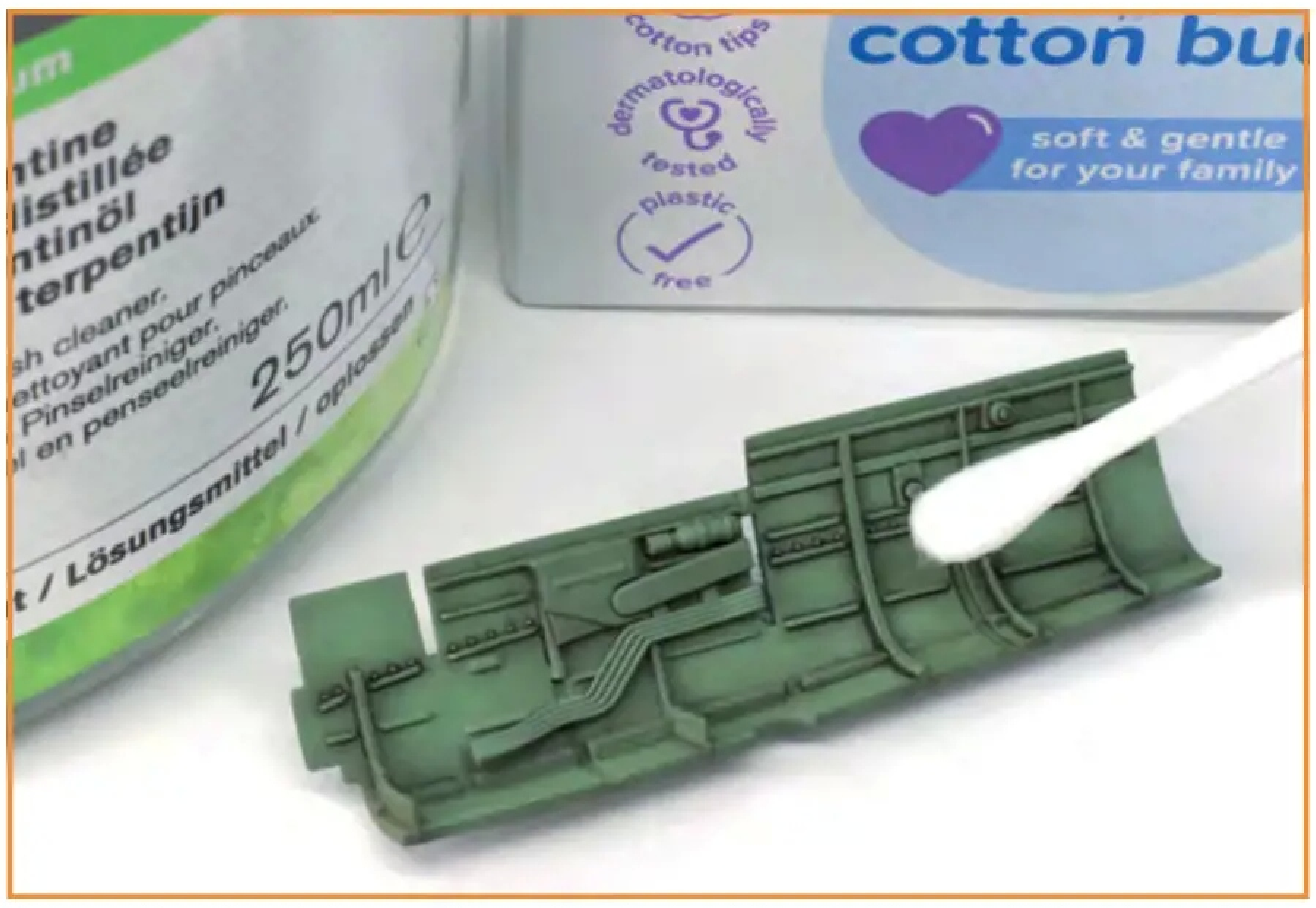
The same repainting was carried out around the wheel bays (not needed as they are the same colour as the undersides) and radiator interiors.



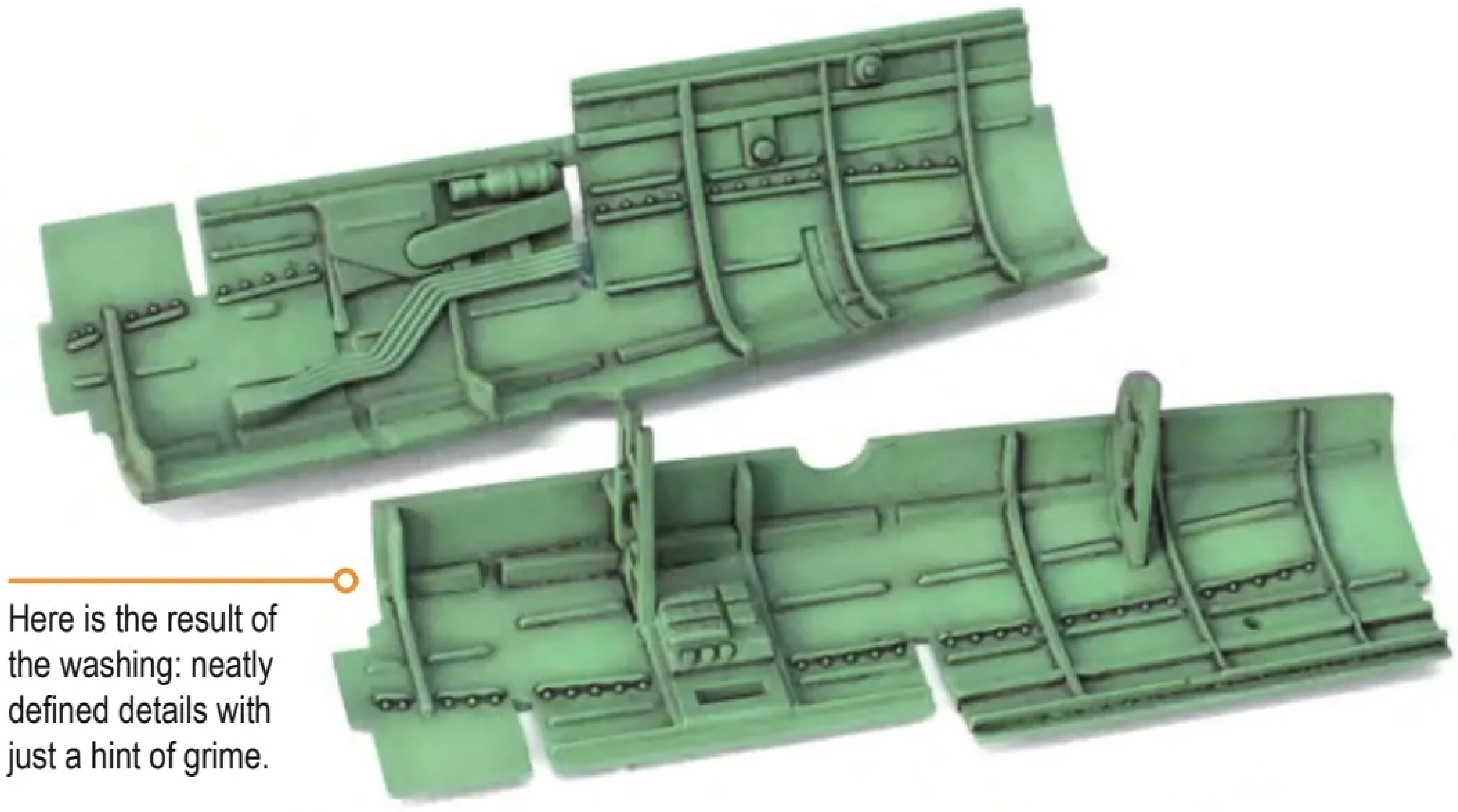
The cockpit parts are all base coated. Time for some detail painting and weathering.



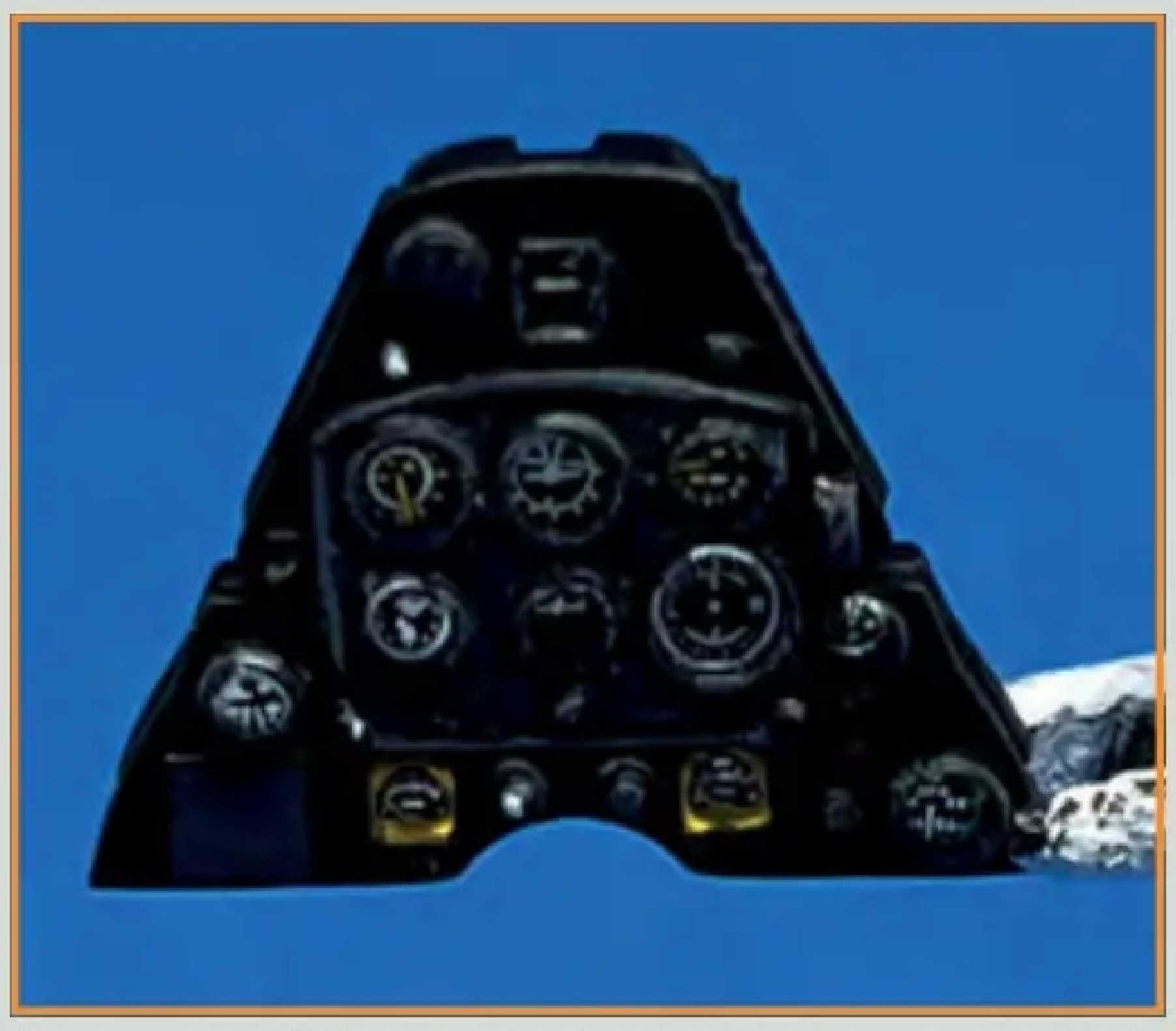
First step was to apply an oil paint wash to shade all of the details.



This was then blended away with a cotton bud moistened with some distilled turpentine.



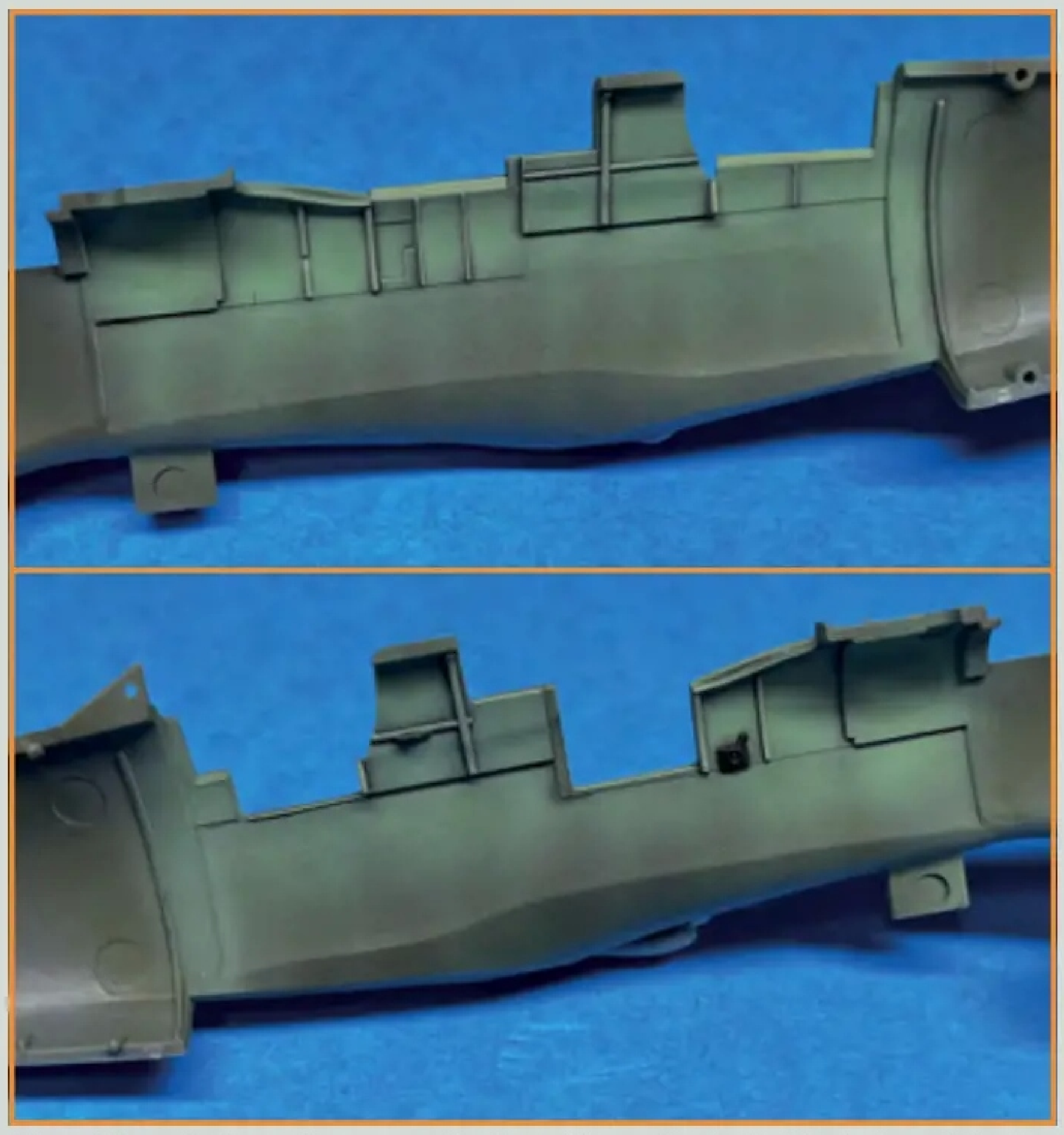
Here is the result of the washing: neatly defined details with just a hint of grime.



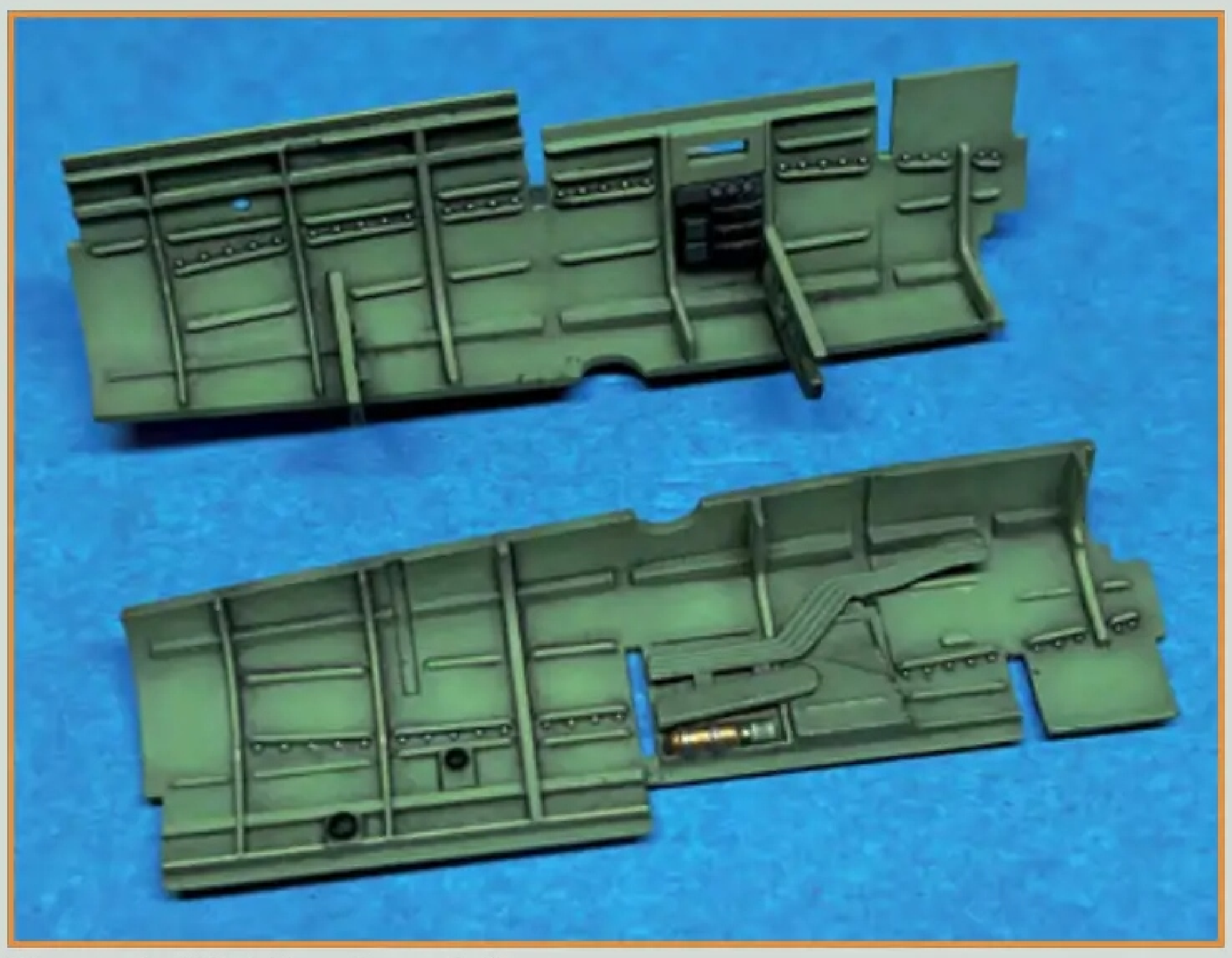
A close-up of the rear instrument panel, decorated with the kit's dial decals. One day I will line these dials up accurately!

ROKET
UV
5g
UV cured adhesive
Sets in 1-3 seconds

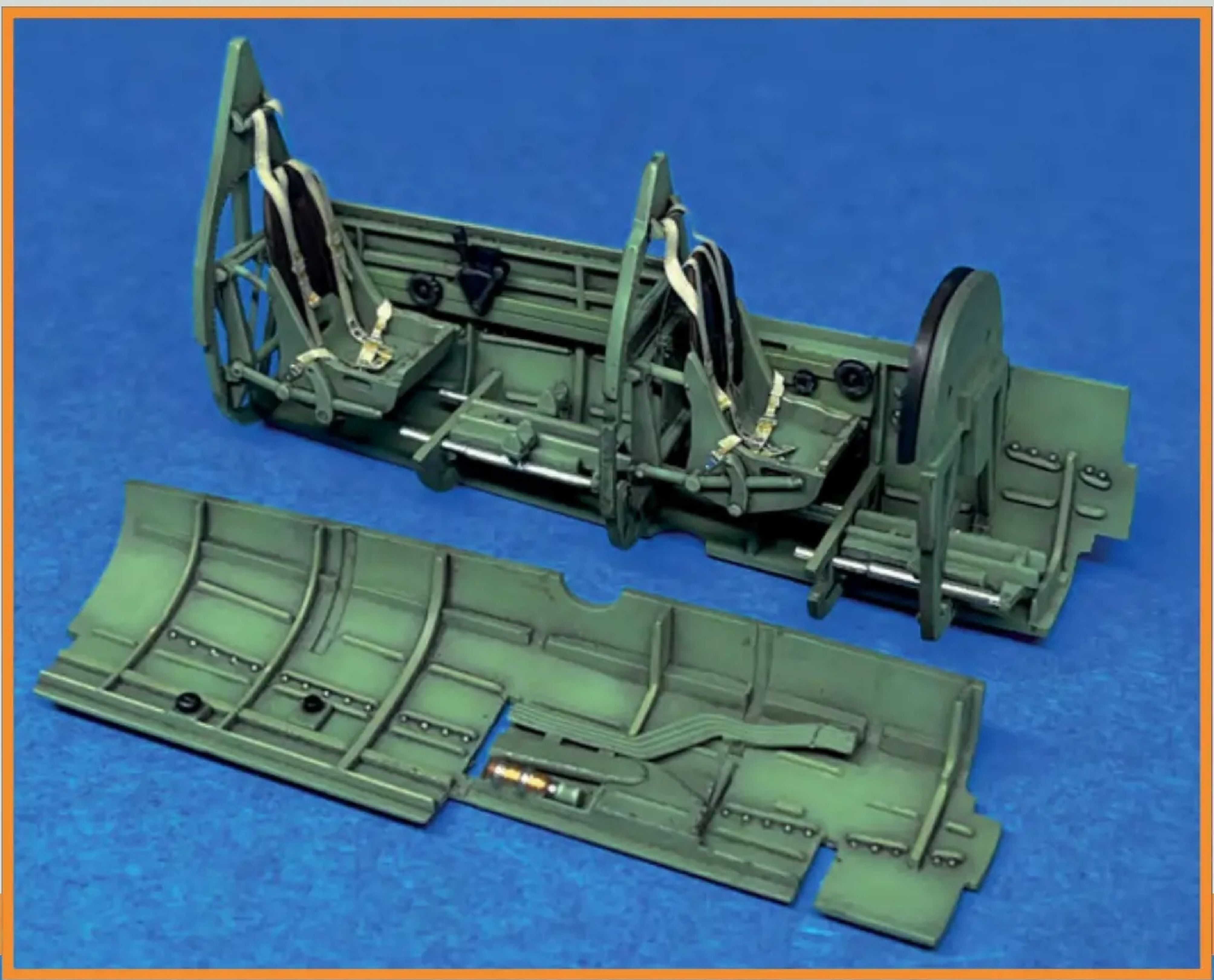
The instrument faces were glazed with tiny drops of UV resin.



The sidewalls have been washed and then the individual ribs picked out with a lighter shade of Interior Grey/Green. I find that this creates a smoother finish than drybrushing these details.

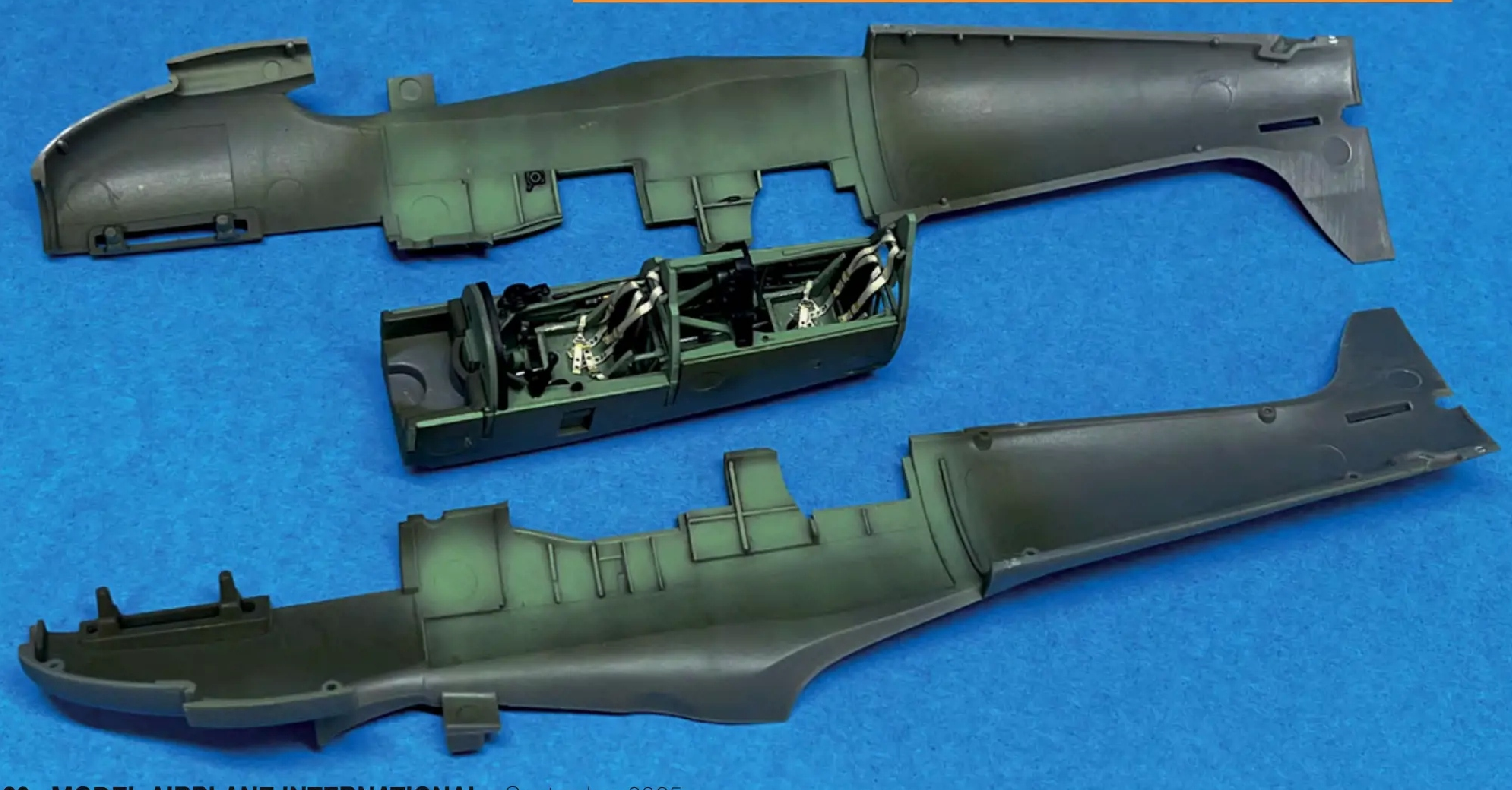


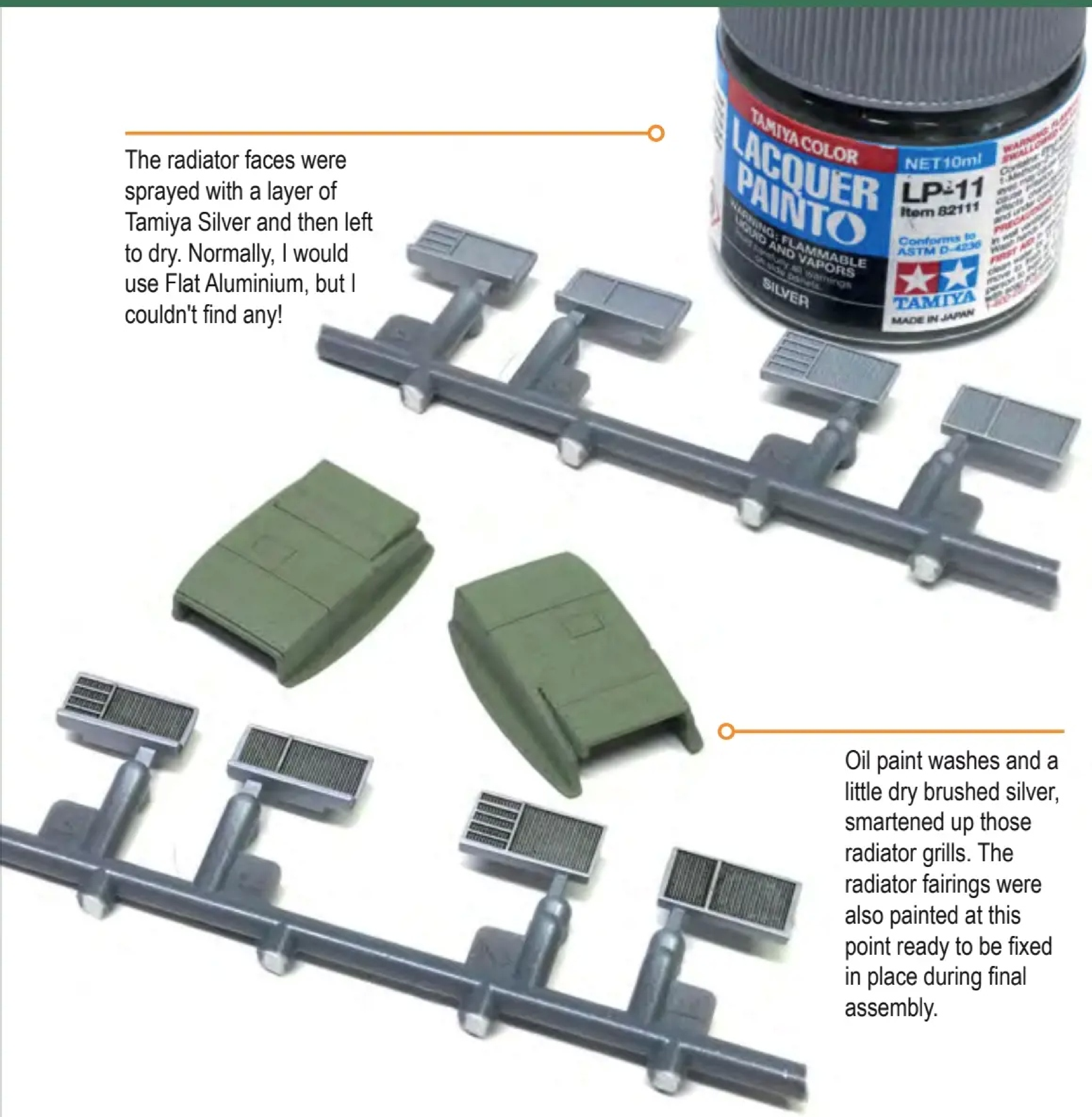
The cockpit 'tub' has been fully painted and all details picked out. Using simple techniques to those described here, can create surprisingly pleasing results.



We are bringing everything together now. The seat straps, though not 100% accurate were taken from an Eduard set of RAF seat belts. Care was taken to ensure that they draped naturally over the seats, which is not always easy with these stiff, pre-painted parts.

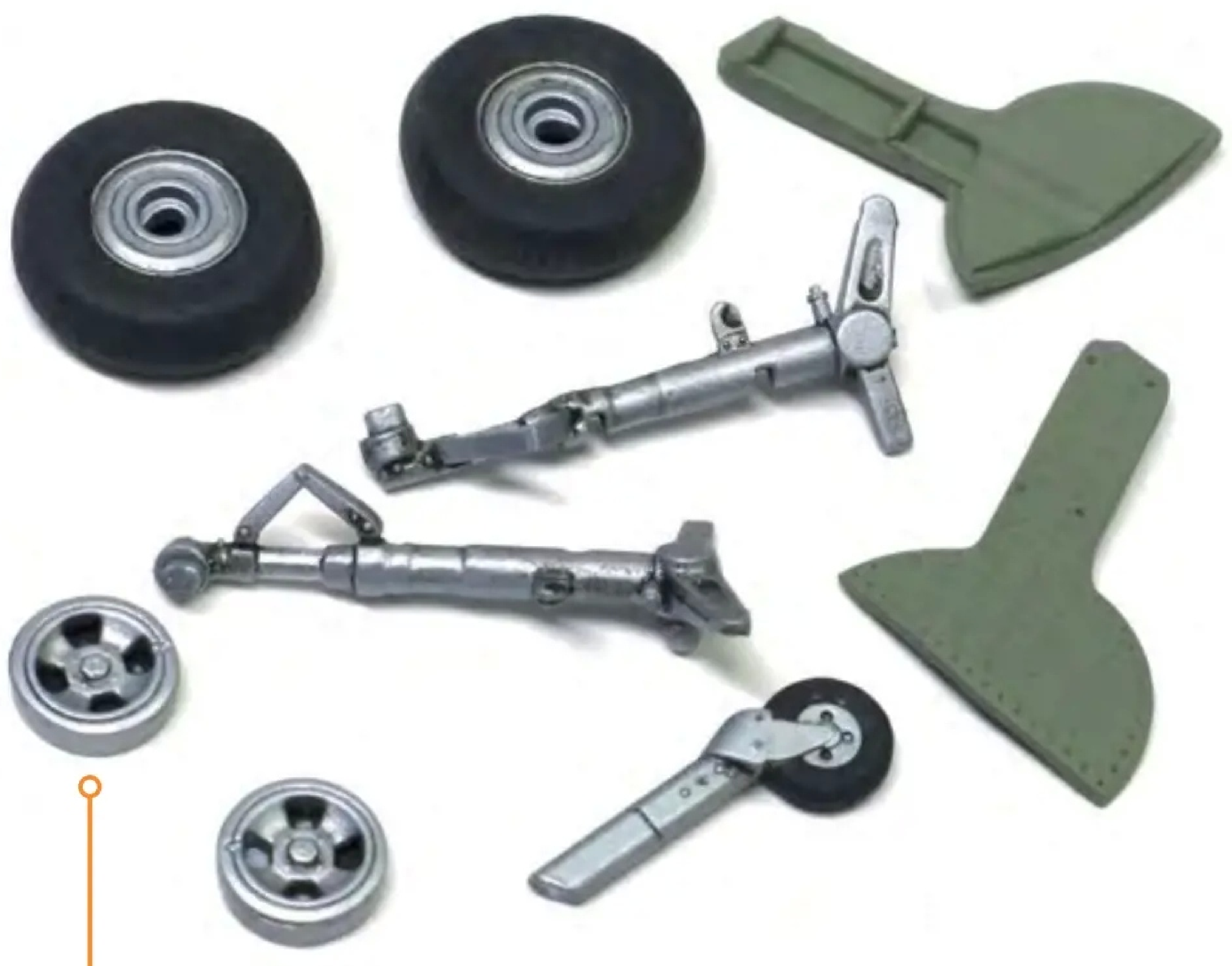
Cockpit done. We can close up the fuselage and complete the airframe.





The radiator faces were sprayed with a layer of Tamiya Silver and then left to dry. Normally, I would use Flat Aluminium, but I couldn't find any!

Oil paint washes and a little dry brushed silver, smartened up those radiator grills. The radiator fairings were also painted at this point ready to be fixed in place during final assembly.



Whilst dealing with the smaller parts, I assembled the undercarriage, painting it as suggested in the instructions. Separate wheel hubs aide in the painting of the wheels and tyres. Incidentally, the tyres were painted AK 3G Rubber Black, washed with a little US Army Tan to create the impression of use.

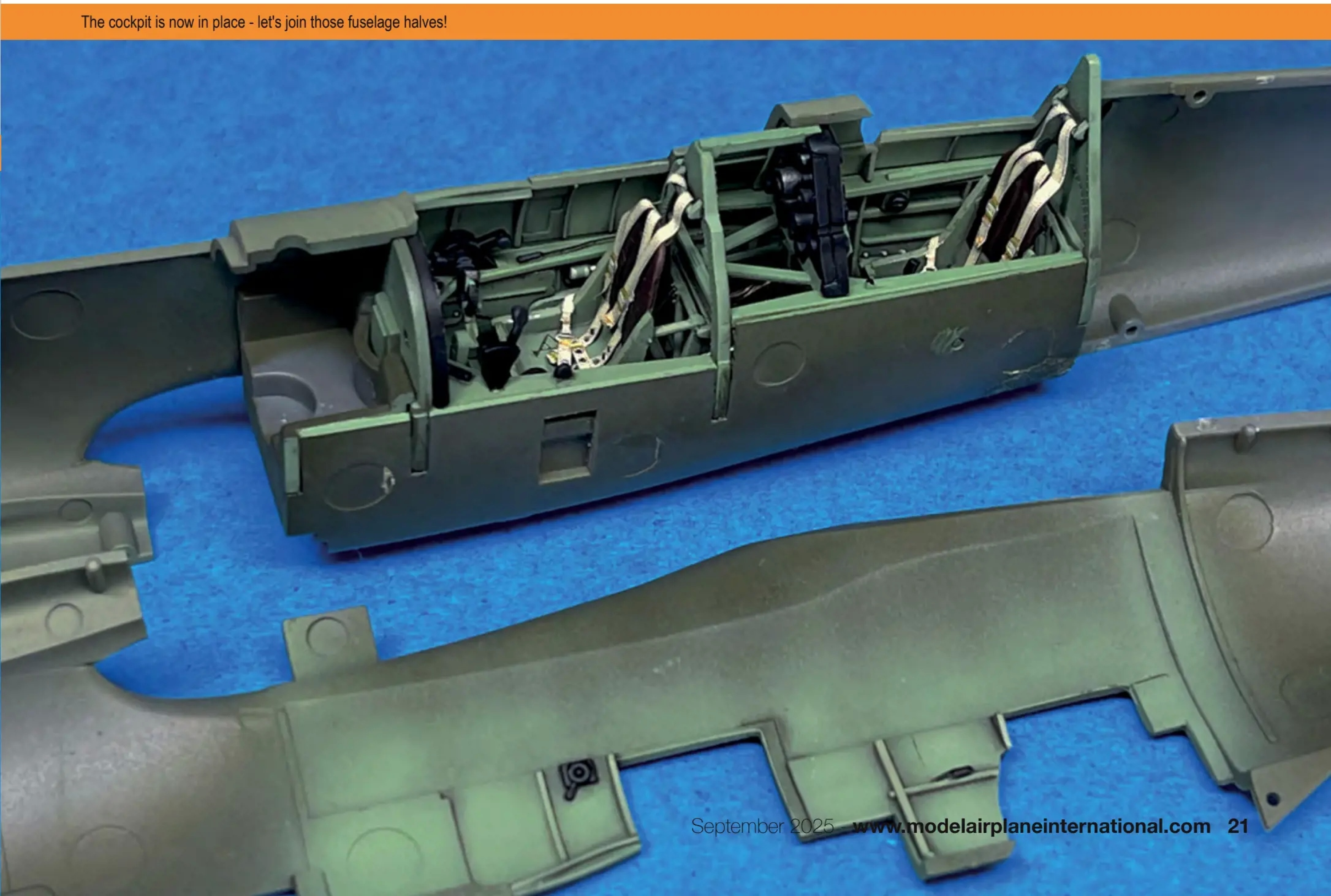
◀ surfaces pleases me no end, the chance to deflect them a little always offering the chance to build a slightly more candid model. Fit, as with the rest of the model is superb, so you can happily glue them in place without fearing that their edges will look ragged under a layer of paint.

In terms of colour schemes, the kit offers two, the choices being as follows:

- Supermarine Spitfire TR.9, B Flight, Irish Air Corps / An tAerchór, Baldonnel
- Aerodrome, Dublin, Republic of Ireland/ Poblacht na hÉireann, 1951.
- Supermarine Spitfire TR.9, Iver, Buckinghamshire, England, 1969.

When it came to painting the model, I used the decals offered in the kit to replicate a restored machine, G-CCCA, which in turn allowed me to complete a pristine, unweathered model. As such, I'm happy with the colours used both inside and out. Had I build an in-service Irish TR.9, I may have had to paint the interior in black which I'm lead to believe those aircraft featured, so perhaps that is something to bear in mind when you build your model… ▶

The cockpit is now in place - let's join those fuselage halves!



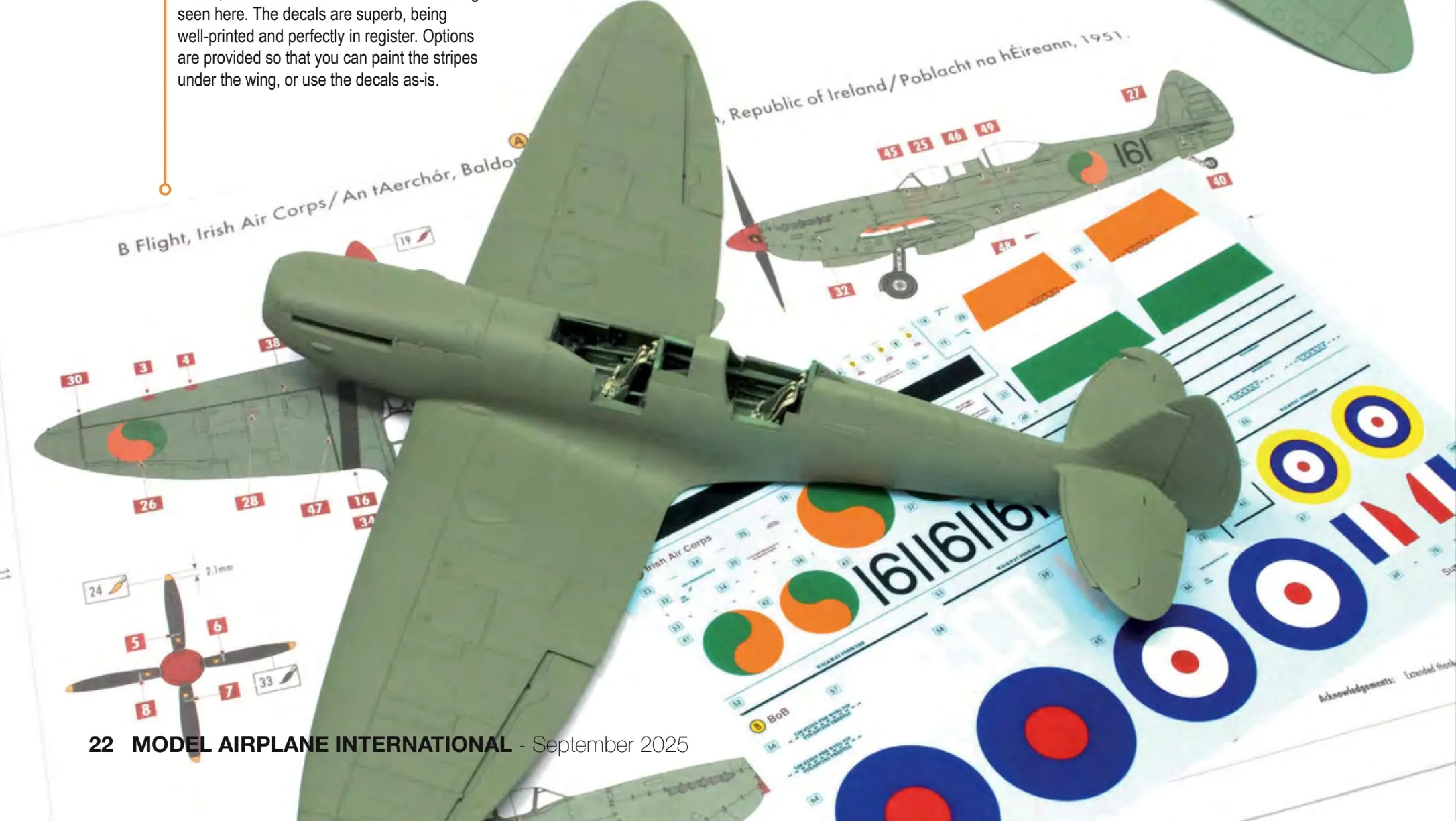
Airfix 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire TR.9 • Kit No. A05143

60
Mr.COLOR
RLM02
XF-81
DARK GREEN 2 (RAF)
TAMIYA COLOR

Although the Irish Spitfires supposedly had interiors the same colour as the exteriors (or indeed black, depending on sources…) I wanted mine to have a slightly different camouflage colour to the interior. This was fixed using Mr. Color RLM 02, tinted with Tamiya RAF Dark Green 2. The colour I came up with matched that applied to the restored machine I was modelling, rather than one in vintage Irish service during the 1950s.

Given that I was building a restored 'warbird' I decided to go for a clean finish, so only applied one single layer of grey/green with no additional shading, or highlights. The paint was airbrushed on in several thin layers, all paint being thinned with at least 60% Mr. Color Leveling Thinner. The resulting finish was super-smooth and rock-hard.

The kit offers the two options mentioned earlier, the decal sheet and instructions being seen here. The decals are superb, being well-printed and perfectly in register. Options are provided so that you can paint the stripes under the wing, or use the decals as-is.


B Flight, Irish Air Corps/ An tAerchór, Baldo
A
, Republic of Ireland/ Poblacht na hÉireann, 1951.
161
161161161
BoB
B
30
3
4
38
26
28
47
16
34
19
24
33
5
6
7
8
2.1mm
27
45
25
46
49
40
48
32
Acknowledgements:

Having painted the model to my satisfaction, I noticed a ghost seam over the top of the oil tank. This was sanded out and then repainted to match the rest of the finish.

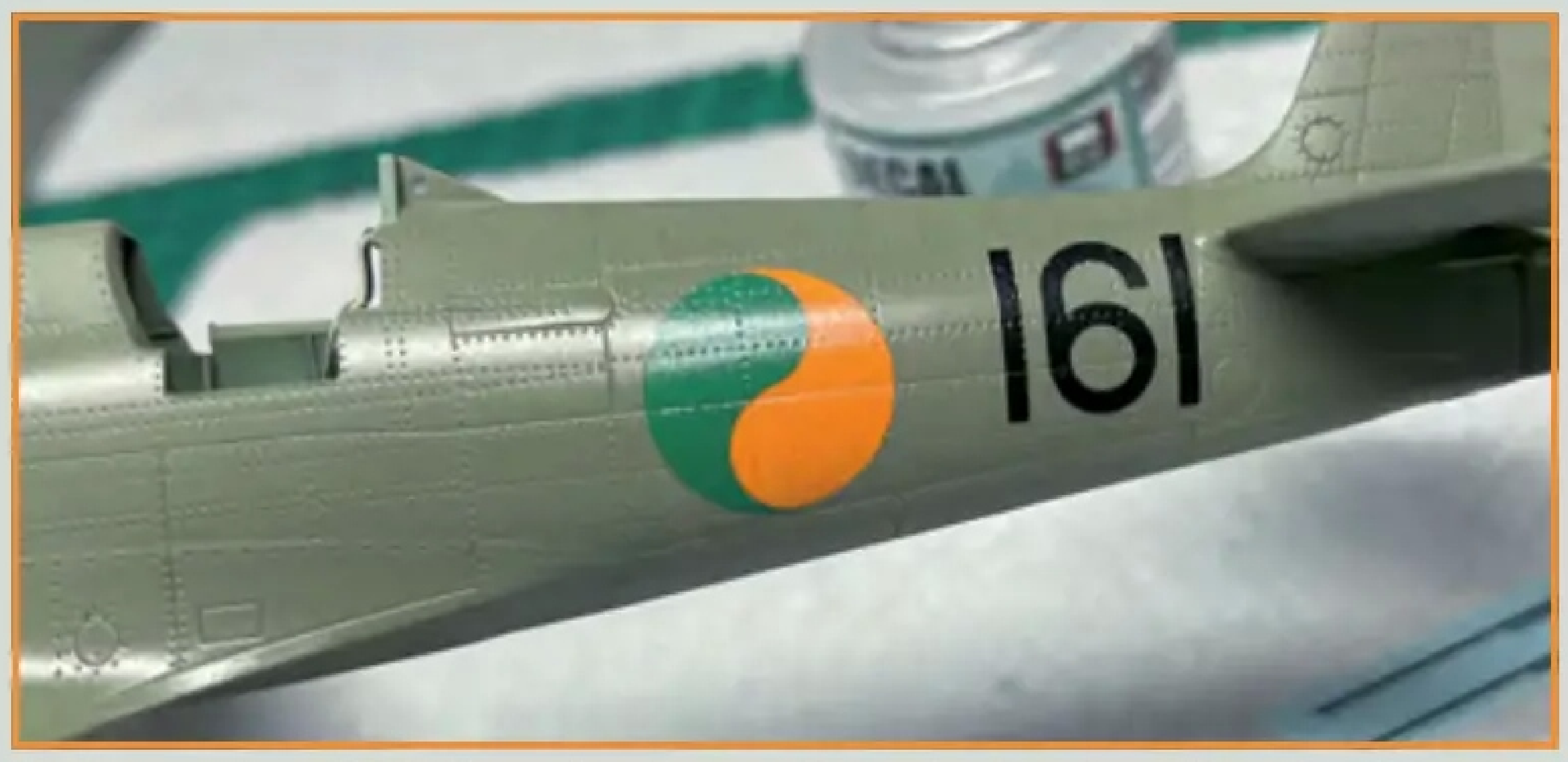
LACQUER PAINT
LP-9
CLEAR

Step one on the path to decaling was to spray the model with a layer of gloss varnish, in this case Tamiya LP Clear. Rather than spray the whole model, I only applied the clear to areas where I had to place decals.

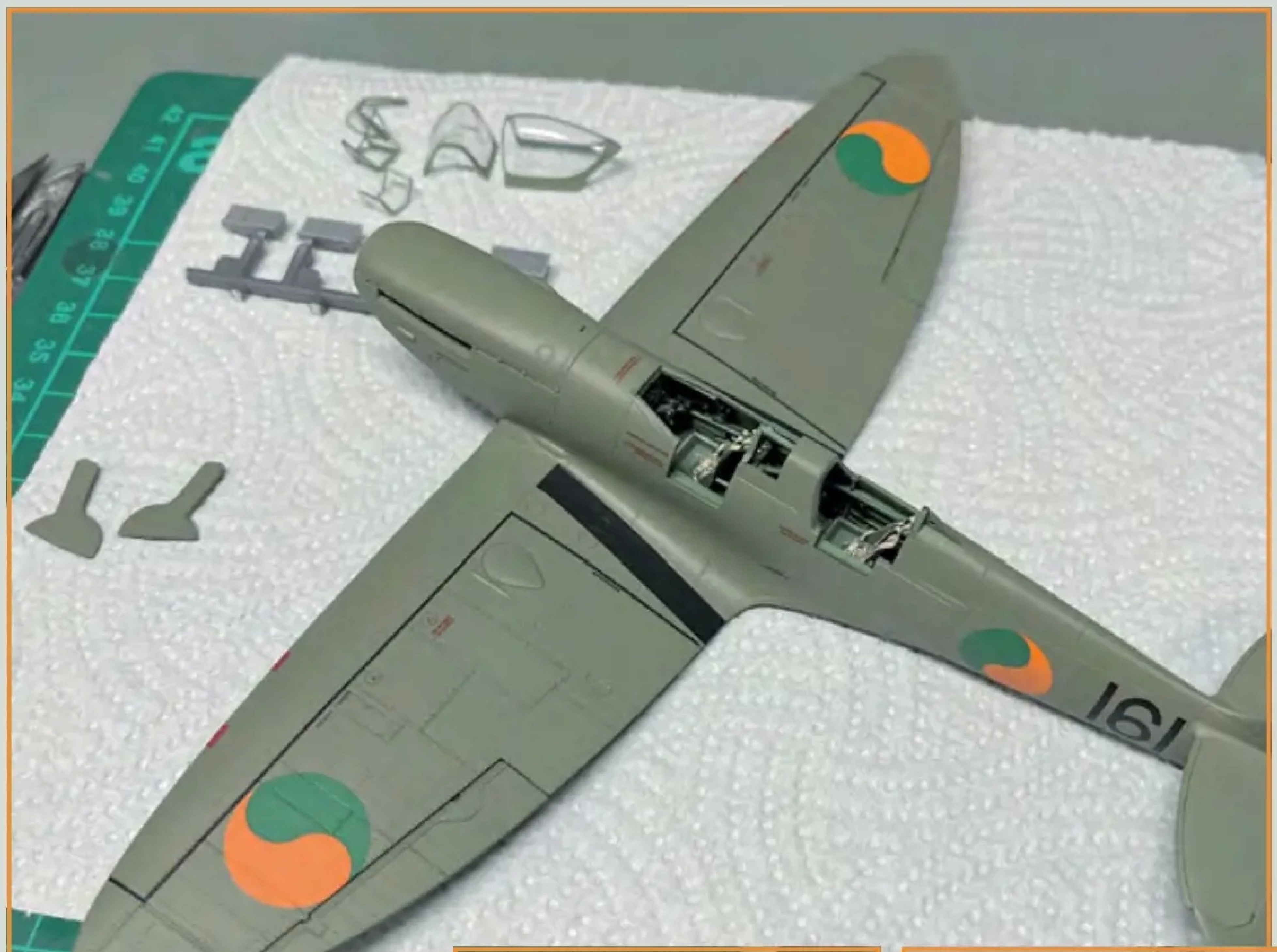
Having painted the canopies, I couldn't resist seeing how they looked in place. Fit is superb and clarity, exceptional.

DECAL SOFTENER
161

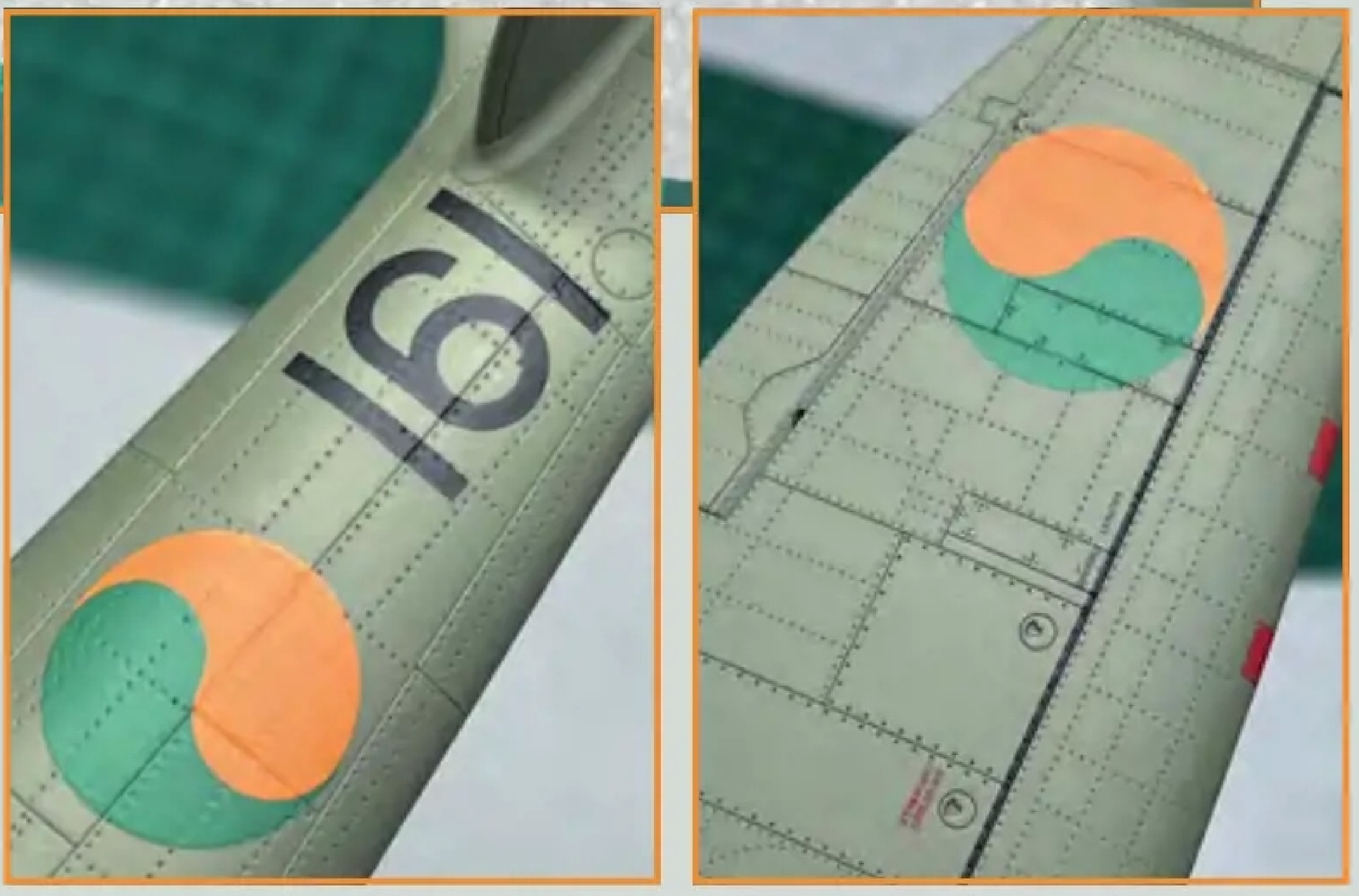
All decals were applied using VMS Decal Softener. This solution is slightly more aggressive than Micro Sol and Set, helping to pull the decals down into the panel lines and rivets with ease.



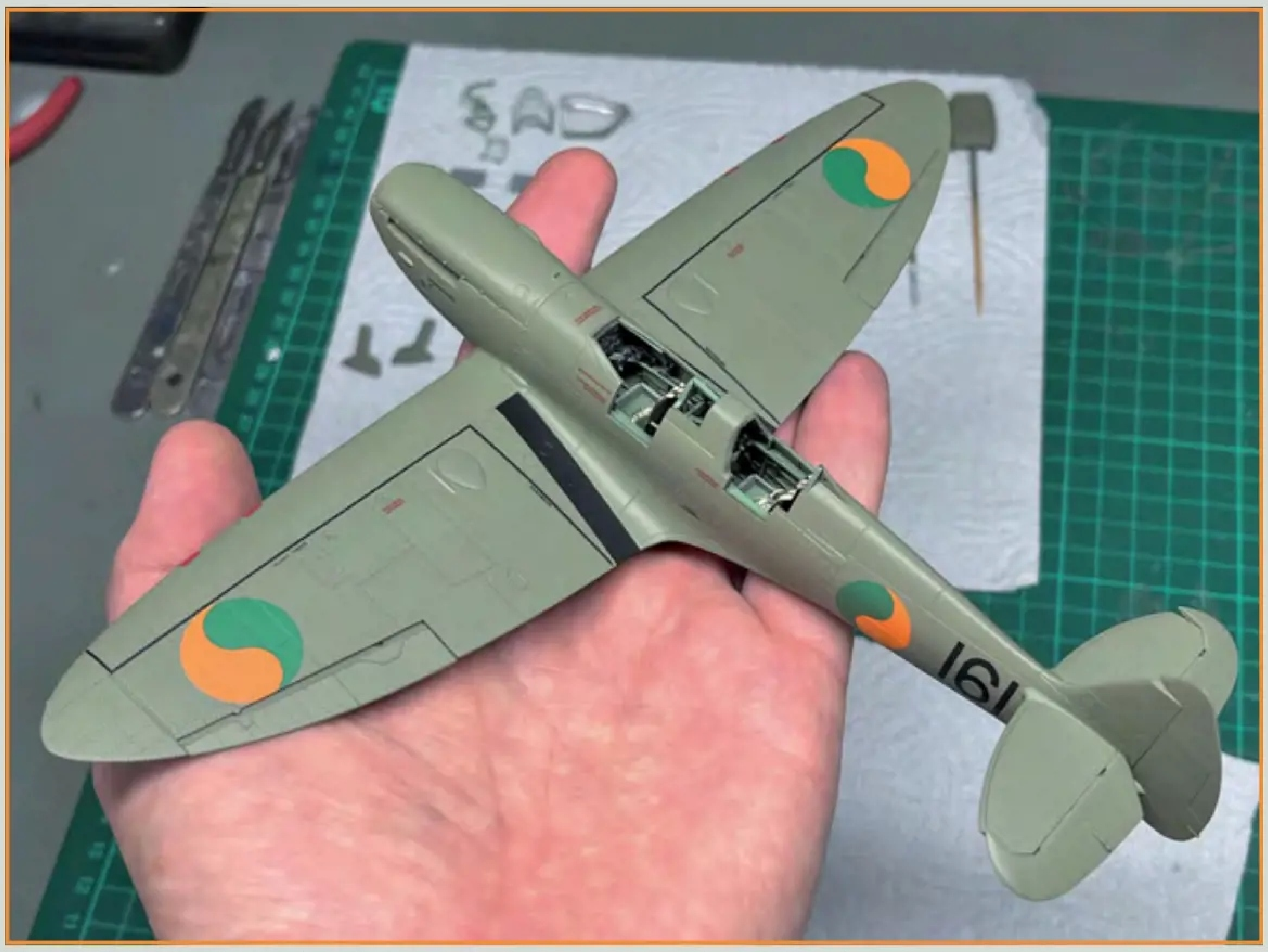
A gloss coat and VMS Decal Softener: the perfect partnership. Note the complete absence of carrier film around the numerals.



A fully-decaled model awaits final assembly.



Under a layer of VMS Satin, the decals really do look painted on!

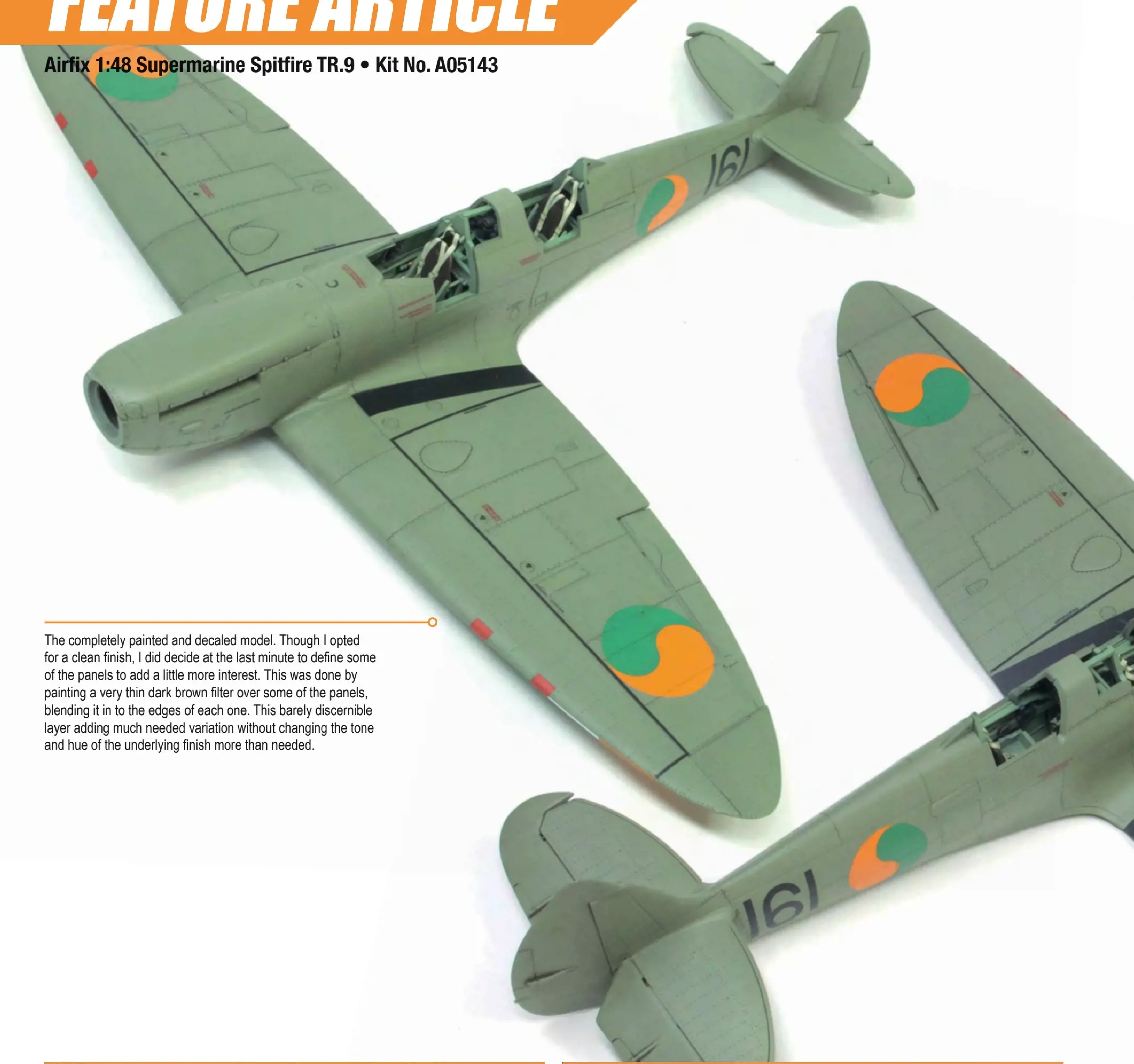


Though I knew that I would be adding washes to the panel lines, I really liked the way the model looked at this stage, its cleanliness really appealing to me in this day and age of highly-weathered, degraded finishes.

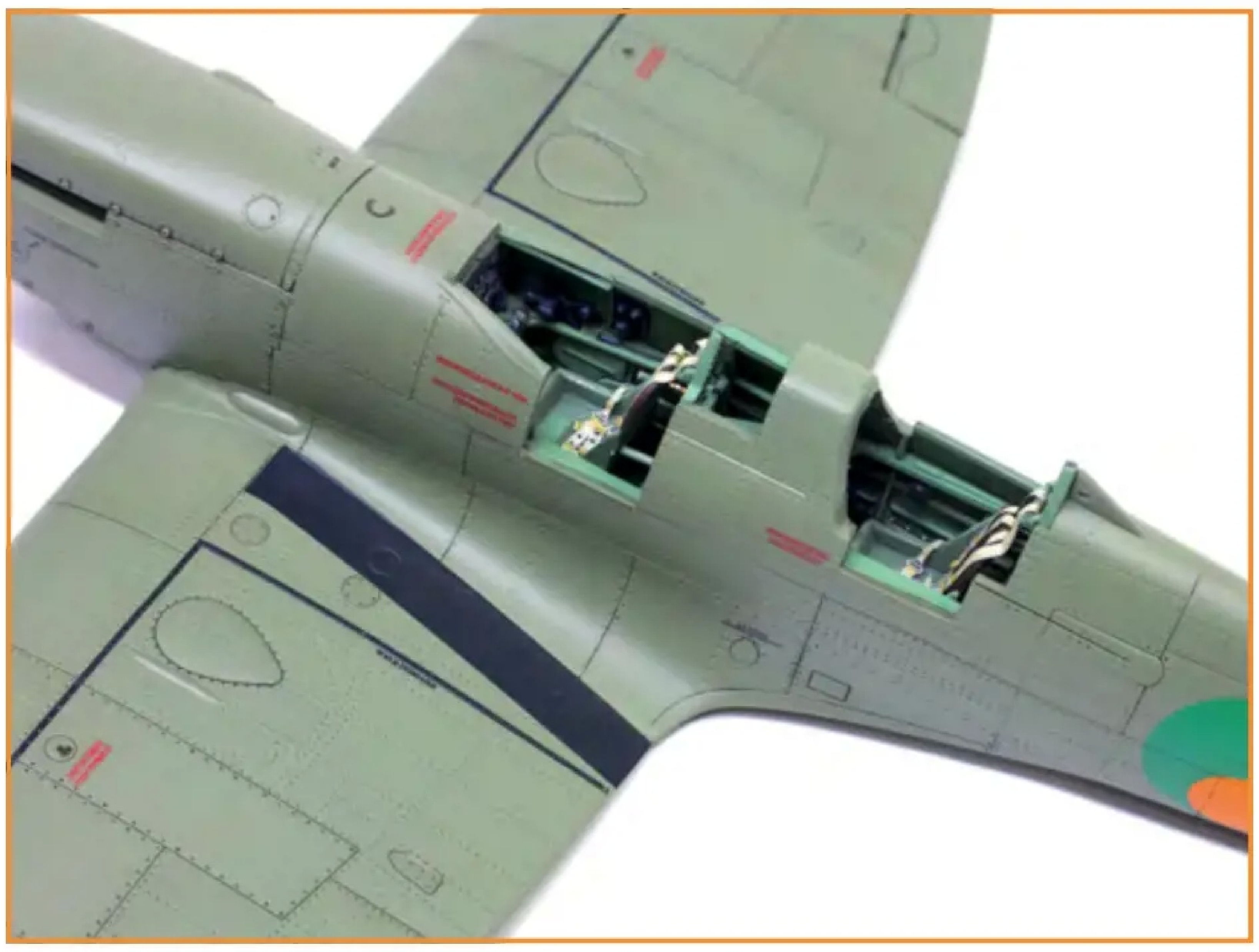
Starship Wash
enamel wash
AMMO
Blue Black
Fine Wash
AMMO

Enamel washes were used to bring out the detail. This was only used in panel lines, the rivets looking to be perfectly fine without any additional help. Note the surface detail in this shot.

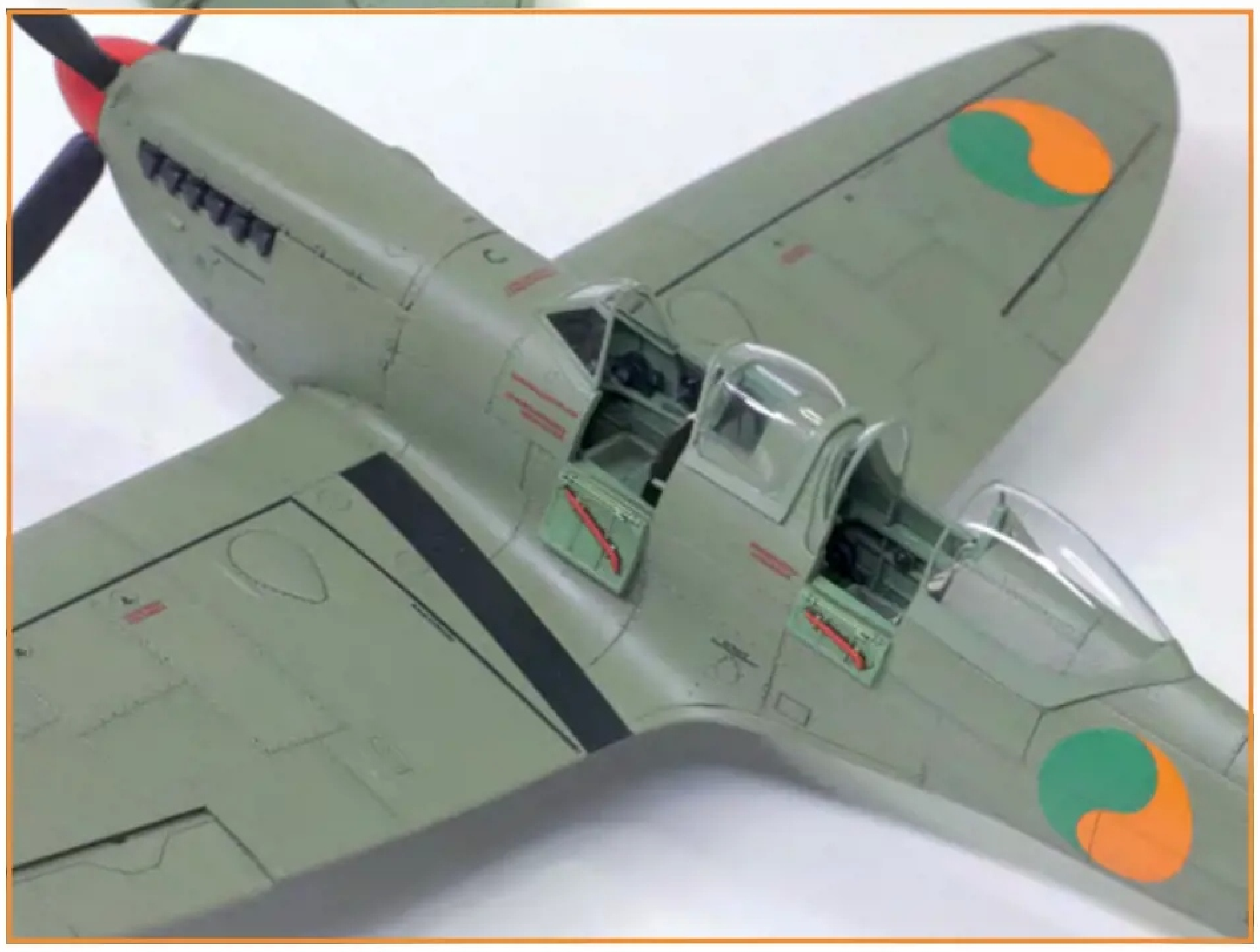
Airfix 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire TR.9 • Kit No. A05143



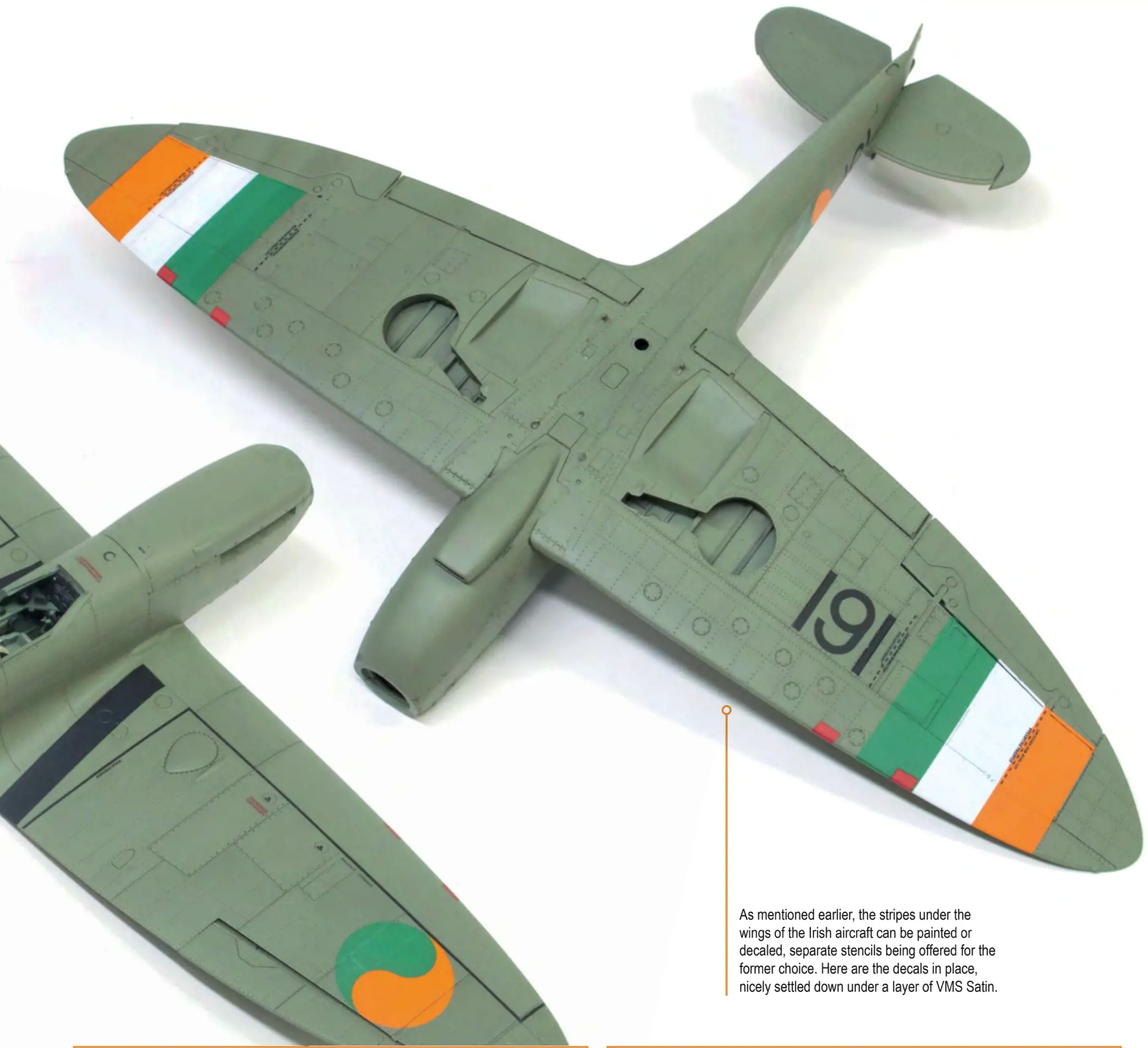
The completely painted and decaled model. Though I opted for a clean finish, I did decide at the last minute to define some of the panels to add a little more interest. This was done by painting a very thin dark brown filter over some of the panels, blending it in to the edges of each one. This barely discernible layer adding much needed variation without changing the tone and hue of the underlying finish more than needed.



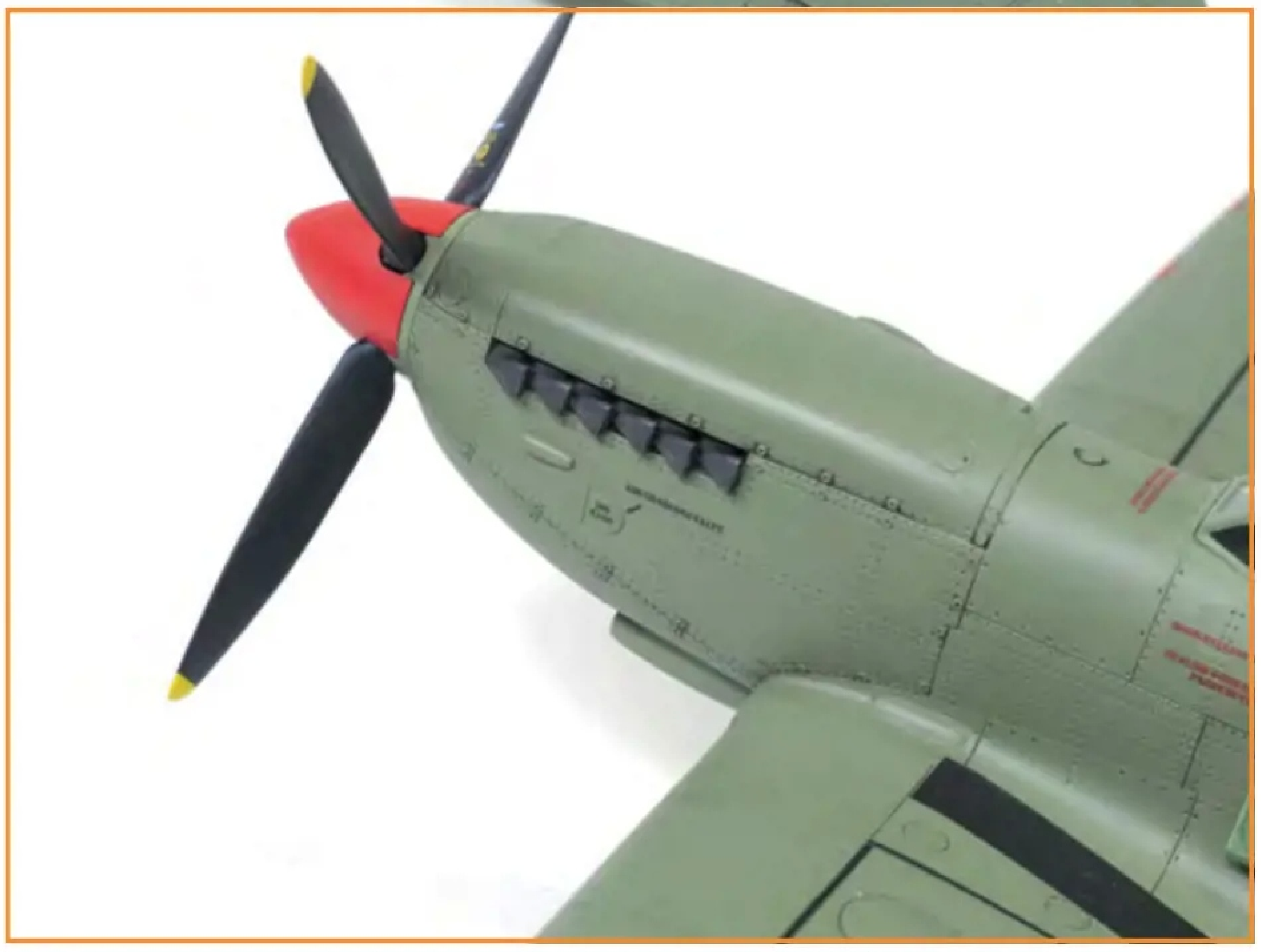
Viewed without its canopies, the levels of detail inside the cockpit are easy to see. The TR.9 is a very different looking Spitfire that Airfix have replicated well.



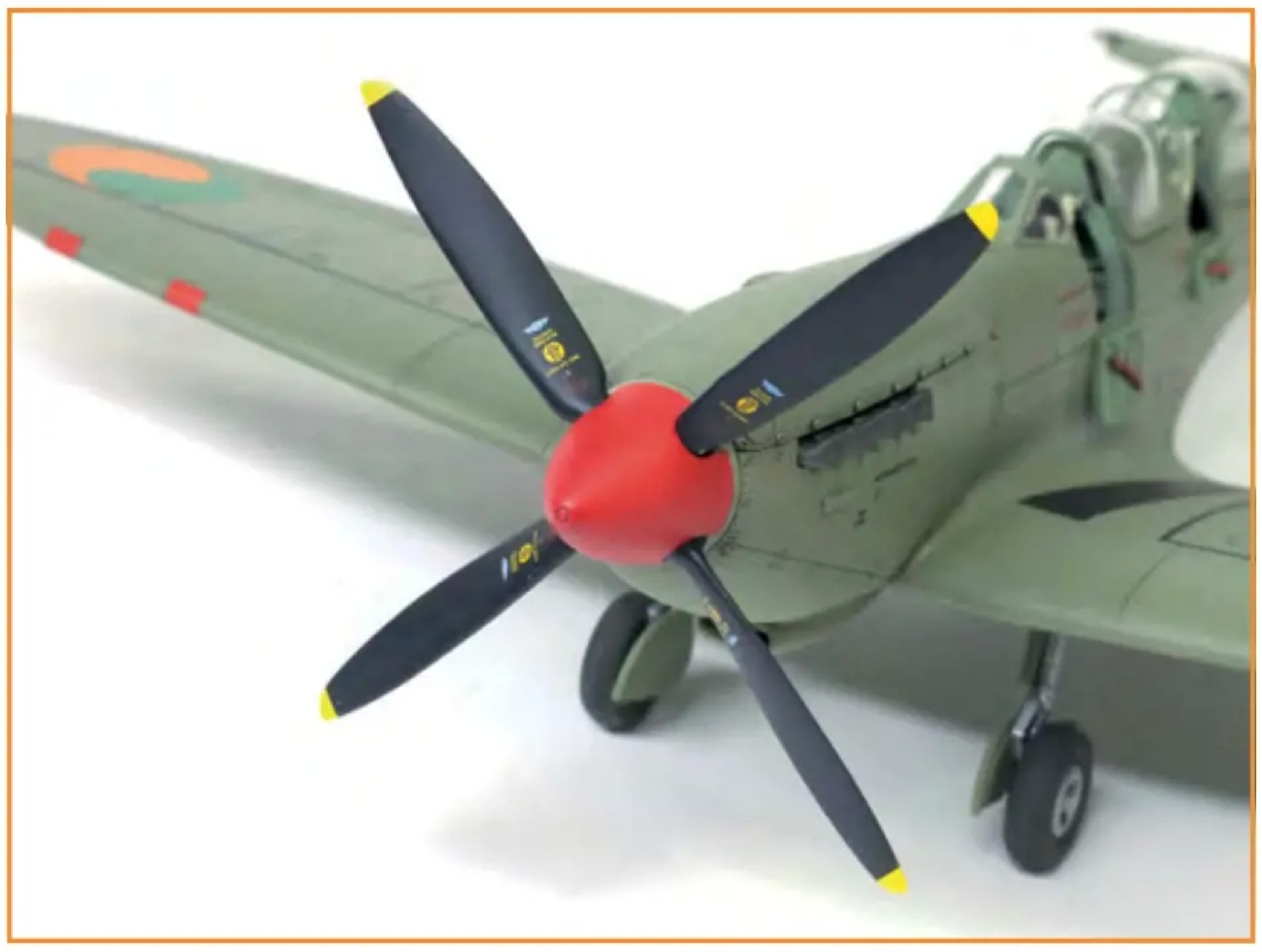
Canopies and doors now in place. The glazing was held in place with tiny drops of Tamiya Extra Thin Cement, at least the windscreens and centre section were; the sliding portions are still loose so as not to damage the glazing with unwanted smears of adhesive.



As mentioned earlier, the stripes under the wings of the Irish aircraft can be painted or decaled, separate stencils being offered for the former choice. Here are the decals in place, nicely settled down under a layer of VMS Satin.



The exhausts are very simple, single-part details that were only cleaned-up, painted and slipped in place. Time precluded drilling out the exhaust, so these were painted black to imitate the openings.

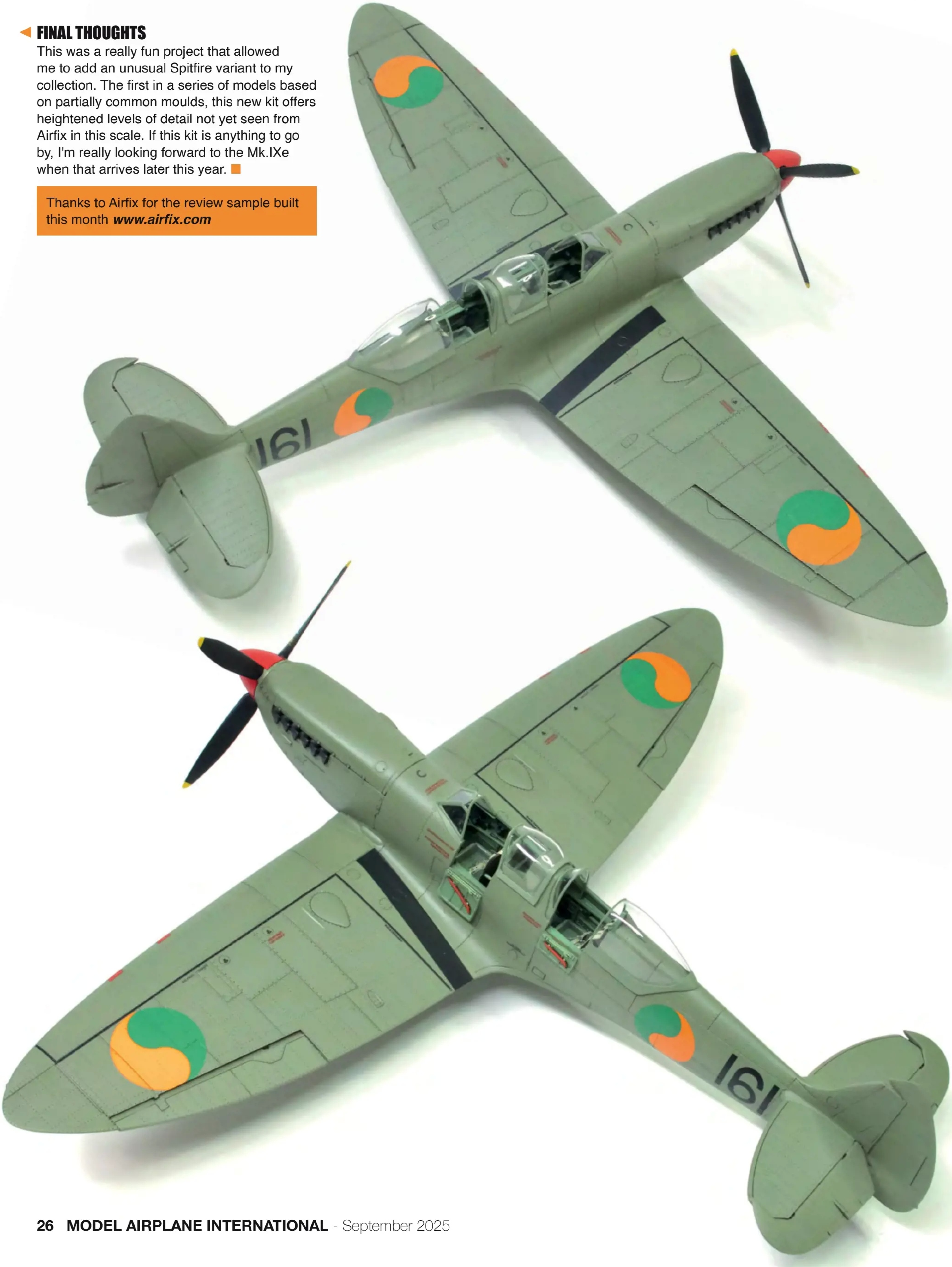


The propeller adds a splash of colour to the nose of the model. Note the stencil decals on the blades, another fit detail supplied on the decal sheet.

FINAL THOUGHTS

This was a really fun project that allowed me to add an unusual Spitfire variant to my collection. The first in a series of models based on partially common moulds, this new kit offers heightened levels of detail not yet seen from Airfix in this scale. If this kit is anything to go by, I'm really looking forward to the Mk.IXe when that arrives later this year. ■

Thanks to Airfix for the review sample built this month ***www.airfix.com***



> *“What a lovely kit it is and a real step up from the other Spitfire kits Airfix have released, lovely though they are as well.”*

Model Craft
FREE GIFT

MODEL AIRPLANE INTERNAT

SUBSCRIP

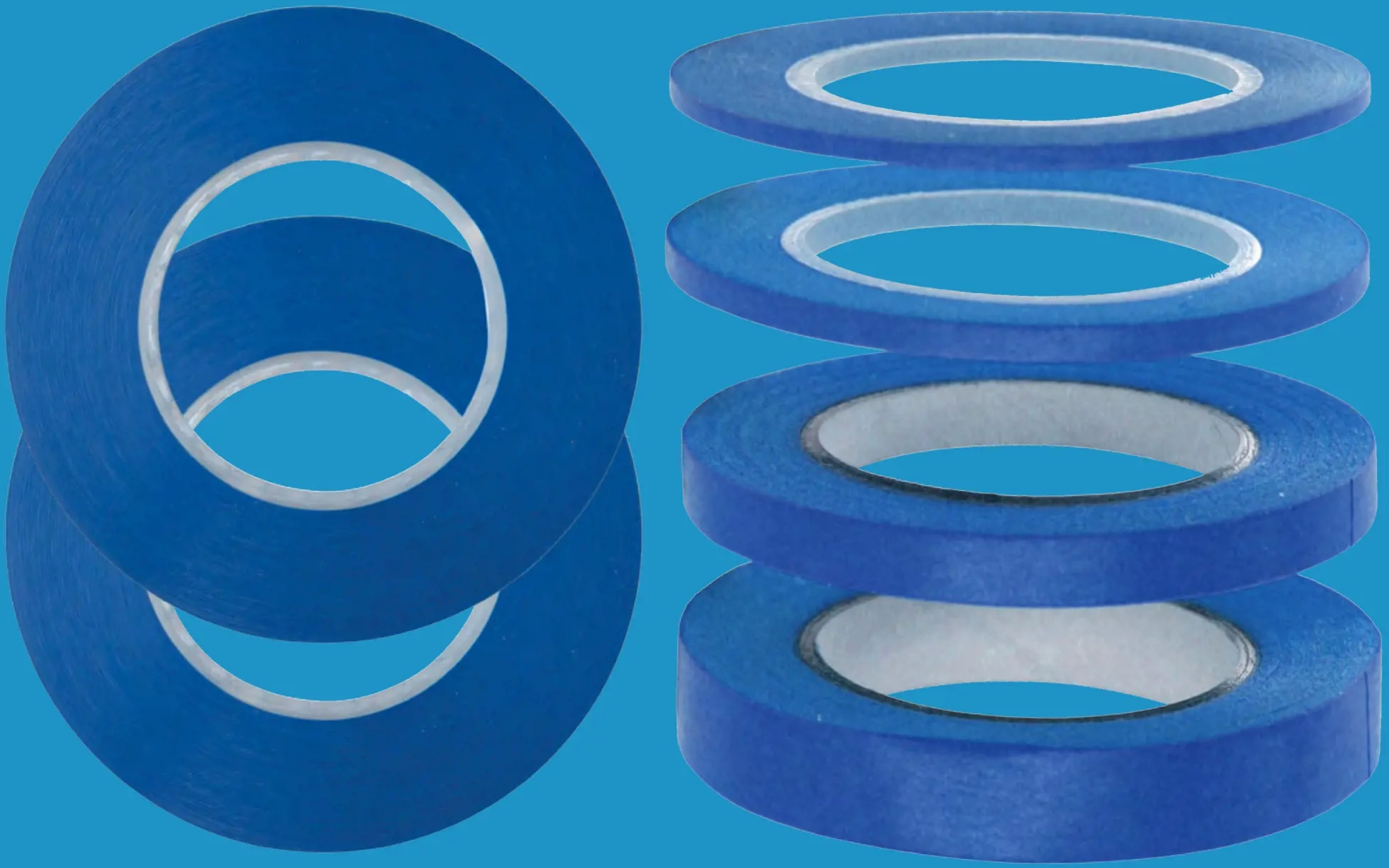
SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW FOR 24 ISSUES AND RECEIVE A FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS GIFT WORTH £45 RRP!

We have teamed up with our friends at Model Craft so we can offer you a special gift for subscribing with us for 24 issues.

Flexible Masking Tape Set

These making tapes are ideal for Modelling, Airbrushing, Arts, Craft, Hobby and even those smaller DIY tasks. The tape sticks, stays and removes cleanly. It is also U.V. protected for masking in direct sunlight.
This flexible acid free tape is designed to follow curved lines and contoured surfaces without creasing, tearing or paint bleed.

- Precise masking with no paint bleed
- Acid free
- 1mm, 2mm, 3mm, 6mm & 10mm widths, 18m length
- Comes in twin packs, so you receive 10 packs
- 180m of masking mayhem!
- FREE GIFT worth over £45!



Doolittle Media Ltd., The Granary, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, Great Britain
W. www.doolittlemedia.com **E.** enquiries@doolittlemedia.com **T.** +44 (0) 1525 222573

DOOLITTLE
MEDIA

TIONAL LIMITED TIME
PTION OFFER

ALL THE INFORMATION YOU'LL EVER NEED TO CREATE THE BEST AIRCRAFT MODELS
Model AIRPLANE INTERNATIONAL
THE MILES M.52
WHITE WHALE
GREY NURSE
RED COBRA
4 NEW BUILDS INSIDE
3 NEW BUILDS INSIDE
240
241
FREE
SEA KING RULES THE WAVES
AIRFIX 1:48 WESTLAND SEA KING
PLUS: ALL THE LATEST KITS / ACCESSORIES / DECALS / BOOKS

*** Terms and conditions**
While stocks last. Customers attempting to take out this offer after all stock is gone will be contacted before any money is taken.
Subscriptions taken out with this offer will not be refunded if cancelled.

2 YEAR MAI SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

First name ....

Surname ....

Address ....

....

....

....

....

....

....

Country..**Post/zip code** ....

Telephone Number ....

Email ....

2 year subscription:- UK; £110, Europe; £138, Worldwide; £168

Please be aware that all credit/debit cards are processed through PayPal and this may appear on your bank statement

Renewal/Extension ☐ New Subscription ☐ Starting with issue No..........................

Please tick to confirm that you accept the terms and conditions ☐

Please debit my credit/debit card for £..........................

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐ Cheque ☐ Payable to **Doolittle Media Ltd.**

Card number:
☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐ Maestro only

Expiry date.................... Valid from.................... CCV Code.................... (3 digits on the signature strip) Issue No........... (If applicable)

Signature ....Date..

Please call our subscription line or mail this form, or a copy, to;
Doolittle Media, The Granary, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel; +44(0)1525 222573 **Email;** enquiries@doolittlemedia.com **Online;** www.doolittlemedia.com
(Photocopies of this form are acceptable)

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 Siegfried Schnell, Super Wings Series No. 21

THE SHRIKE

Please note, the swastika emblems on the tail have been removed from these photographs to comply with laws in countries where Model Airplane International is sold

Zoukei-Mura's 1:32 scale Focke Wulf Fw190 A-4 kit built by Brian Tomasin.
Photography and Text by Brian Tomasin

1:32

SKILL LEVEL:
ADVANCED (OUT OF THE BOX)

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Fw190 A-4 Super Wings Series No. 21
Parts Count: 359 injection moulded parts; canopy masks; decal sheet; full colour booklet instructions and exclusive Siegfried Schnell figure.

ACCESSORIES USED:
- Cockpit Handles: ANYZ Cockpit handles AN030
- Aerial: E-Z Line-Fine elastic cord- Berkshire Junction Mfg.
- Quinta Studios QD32221| 1:32 FW190 A-4 Interior Decal set, 3-D printed placards
- Barracuda Studios BARBR32357, Fw-190 A-1 thru A-4 Wheels
- Maltese Cross logo decal - Kits World War Birds decals KW-17248-3.
- Item 125 Laser Decal Paper- Experts Choice Decal (LASER)- Bare-Metal Foil Co. PO Box 82 Farmington, MI 48332

TOOLS AND MODELLING PRODUCTS USED:
- Tamiya Extra Thin Cement
- Great Planes Super Glue
- Tamiya Masking Tape
- Folding Fixture- "5 Speed Hold and Fold", tool # SMS004- The Small Shop.com

PAINTS AND FINISHING PRODUCTS USED:
- Tamiya Aerosol Paints– Fine Grey Primer
- Tamiya Acrylic Paints: XF-55 Deck Tan, X-28 Green; X-7 Red; XF-2 Flat White; XF-64 Red Brown, XF-8 Lemon Yellow, XF-8 Flat Blue.
- Vallejo Acrylic Paints –RLM76 Pale Blue 71.046, RLM66 Grey 71.047, RLM02 Grey 71.044, RAL9021 71.251, NATO Black: 71.119, RAL9002- White Grey 71.121, Beige 71.074
- Testors Model Masters Acrylic Paints- RLM74 Grey Green #4784, RLM75 Violet Grey #4785
- Microscale Industries Micro Gloss and Micro Flat clear model finishes
- Winsor & Newton Brown Madder, Van Dyck Brown, Cadmium Vermillion and Burnt Sienna oil paint.
- Tamiya Panel Line Accent Colour (Black)
- Alclad II Lacquers; ALC-111 Magnesium, ALC-104 Burnt Metal: ALC-123 Exhaust Manifold; ALC-103 Dark aluminium, ALC112 Copper
- MIG Ammo Black Night MIG-1611 panel wash for RLM 81 and 82
- MIG Ammo Green Brown MIG-1612 wash for RLM 83
- MIG Ammo Blue Grey MIG 1613 wash for RLM 76 and 78

REFERENCES:
- "Focke Wulf Fw190 in Action" by Jerry Campbell., Aircraft Number 19- Squadron Signal Publications 1975.
- Aero Detail 6 Focke-Wulf Fw190A/F , Shigeru Nohara and Masatsuga Shiwaku, Dainippon Kaiang Co. Ltd. 1993
- "The Official Monogram Painting Guide to German Aircraft 1935-1945" by Kenneth A. Merrick & Thomas Hitchcock, Monogram Aviation Publications-1980

✓ Level of detail, high quality moulding, precise fit and accuracy. Included is a nicely detailed BMW 801 D-2 engine, cockpit, gun-bays and airframe. Instruction booklet is outstanding for its clarity, graphics and overall impression. It looks like a technical document and handbook for the real aircraft, not just a 1:32 scale model.

✗ Engine Assembly to fuselage frame parts is accurate but not easy with the blind assembly of part E-23 Frame to the holes on the E5 Engine mounting ring. Wing leading edge, gun port insert fit has small gap on top upper surface. More complete airframe stencils decals and placement instructions would improve this kit.

RATING: 10 OUT OF 10

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 Siegfried Schnell, Super Wings Series No. 21

The Fw190 A-4 variant was produced from June 1942 through August 1943 with approximately 975 aircraft produced. The version was derived from the earlier A-3 version, the difference being the use of the FuG 16 radio. For this purpose, a small fin was added to the upper part of the tail to which the antenna cable was attached. Variable engine cooling slots were added to the fuselage behind the engine exhausts for greater control of engine cooling in cold weather, but a few aircraft used the fixed open slots used on earlier variants. Also landing gear and wheels were completely covered with bay doors.

FW190 A-4 IN 1:32 SCALE

Zoukei-Mura model kits are impressive. I spent my career as a design engineer in the toy and plastics industry, specializing in injection moulding. The engineers on this kit have done an exemplary job with part design, sprue layout, moulded details, gating locations, etc. This is a world-class set of tooling to produce this kit. I would love to work in the engineering group that created this model! Zoukei-Mura engineering on this injection moulded kit is simply outstanding. This is the first Z-M kit that I have opened on my workbench. It is a good platform for completing every bit of the designed-in detail to engine, cockpit and airframe. I will go one step further by building an aircraft with different markings than the kit provides and add a high level of weathering. If all kit manufacturers could do what Zoukei-Mura does? The cross-sell brochure in the box lists all the other SWS kits, I want them all! I intend to add state-of-the-art 3D printed cockpit details where needed and open the engine compartment to expose the BMW 810 D-2 engine, gun-bays and area forward of the cockpit. If you want to see the business end of a Fw190, you got it.

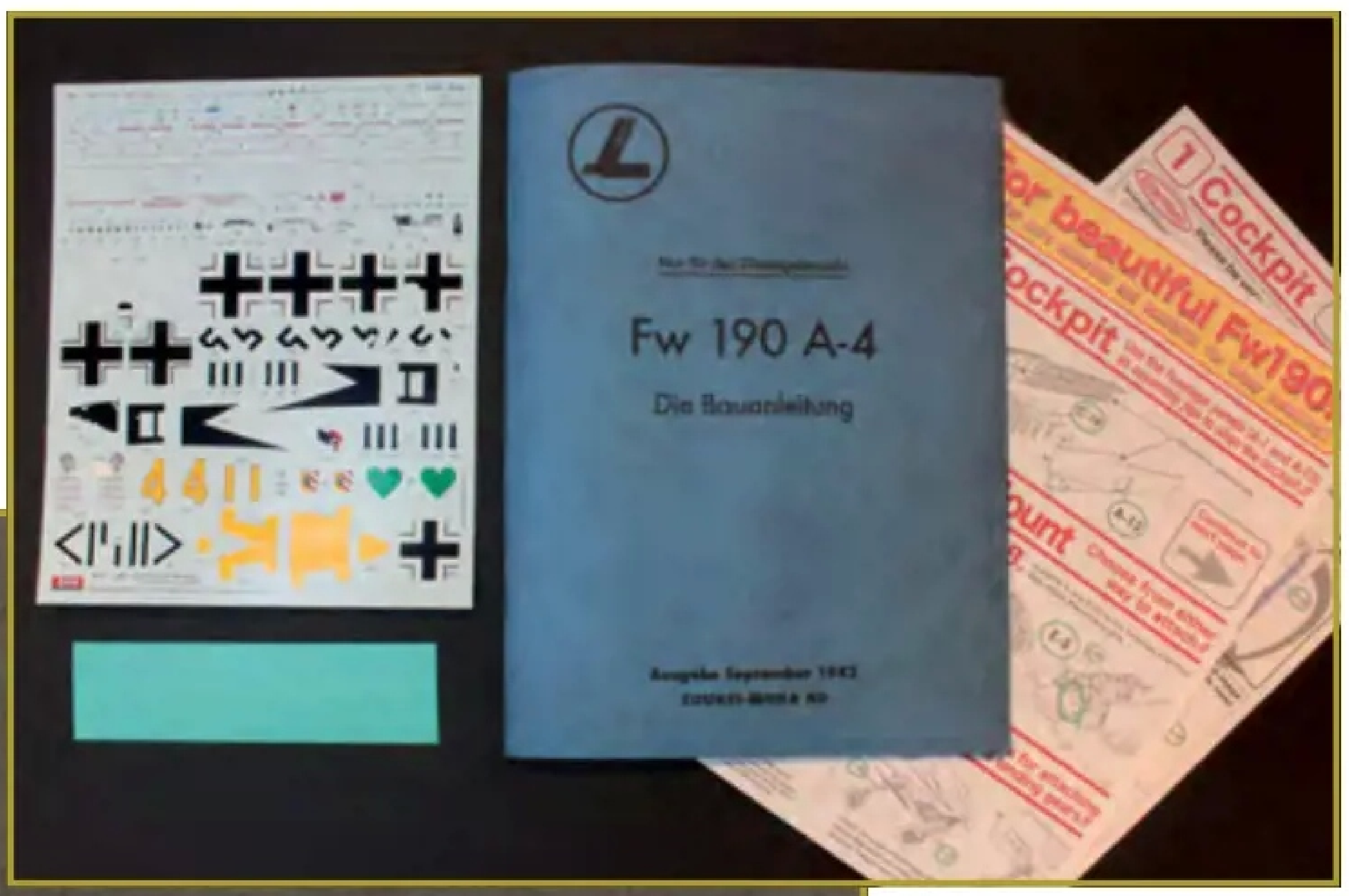
I wanted to emphasize the unique camouflage scheme, finish and weathering to portray nature's effect on the aircraft during the middle years of the Second World War. I will also be modelling a different A-4 in Luftwaffe 1/JG1, 1943 with decals from various sources.

SWS SUPER WING SERIES
No.21 Focke Wulf
1/32 Fw 190 A-4
Bonus Resin figure
"Siegfried Schnell"
21
D-DAY

Siegfried Schnell Figure included.

Fw 190 A-4
SWS
FOCKE-WULF Fw190A/F
SUPER WING SERIES No.21
FW 190 IN ACTION
Fw 190 A-4
Die Bauanleitung

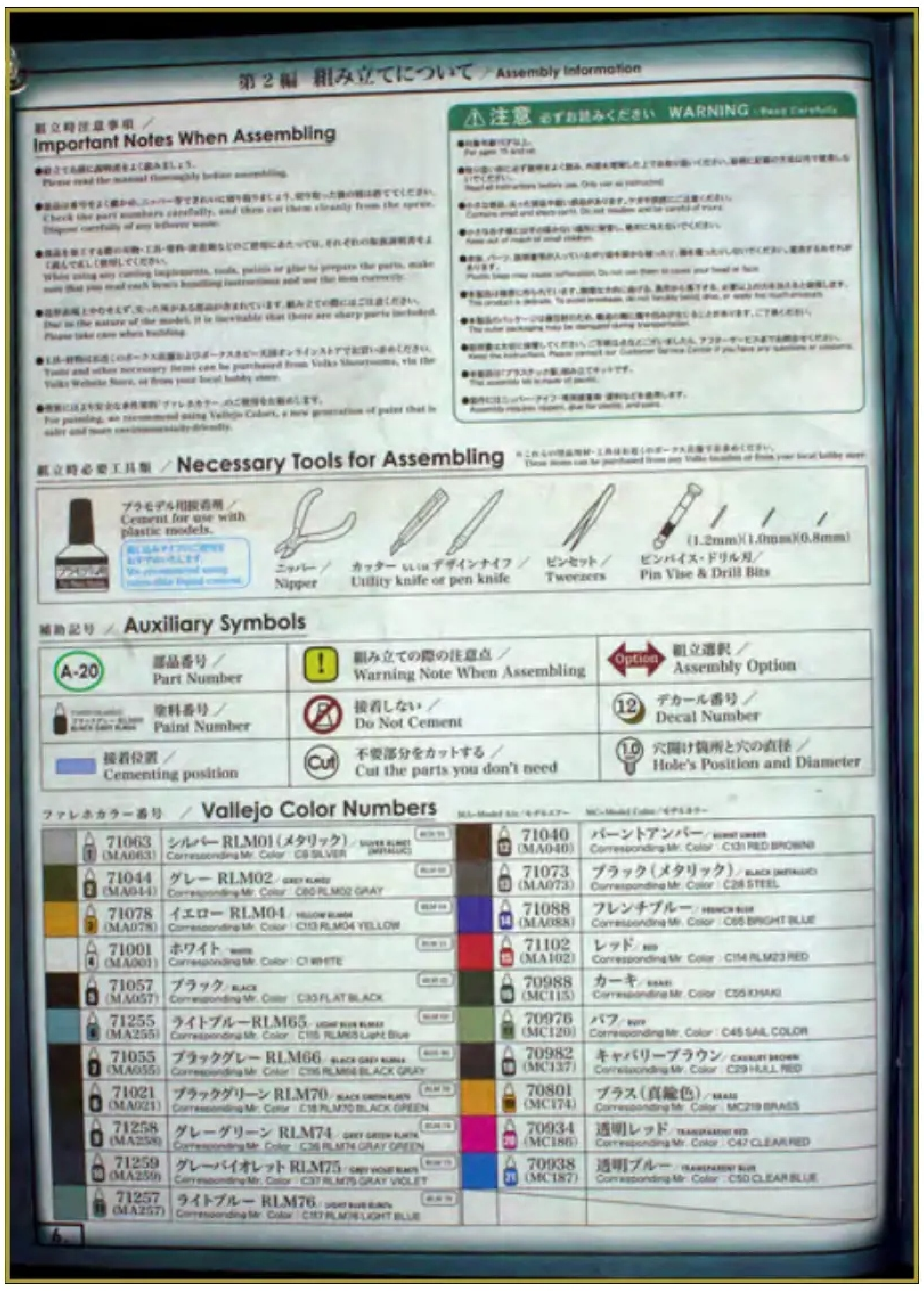
Reference books for the Focke Wulf Fw190 A-4.



Kit instructions, decals and canopy masks.

BARBR32357
BR32357
1:32 SCALE
Fw 190A-1 thru A-5 MAINWHEELS
WHEN "GOOD ENOUGH" ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH
QUINTA STUDIO
QD32221
1/32 FW 190A-4
INTERIOR 3D DECAL

Aftermarket wheels, 3D Interior decals with seatbelts.



第２編 組み立てについて / Assembly Information

組立時注意事項 / Important Notes When Assembling

⚠注意 必ずお読みください WARNING - Read Carefully

組立時必要工具類 / Necessary Tools for Assembling

- プラモデル用接着剤 / Cement for use with plastic models.
- ニッパー / Nipper
- カッター もしくは デザインナイフ / Utility knife or pen knife
- ピンセット / Tweezers
- ピンバイス・ドリル刃 / Pin Vise & Drill Bits (1.2mm)(1.0mm)(0.8mm)

補助記号 / Auxiliary Symbols

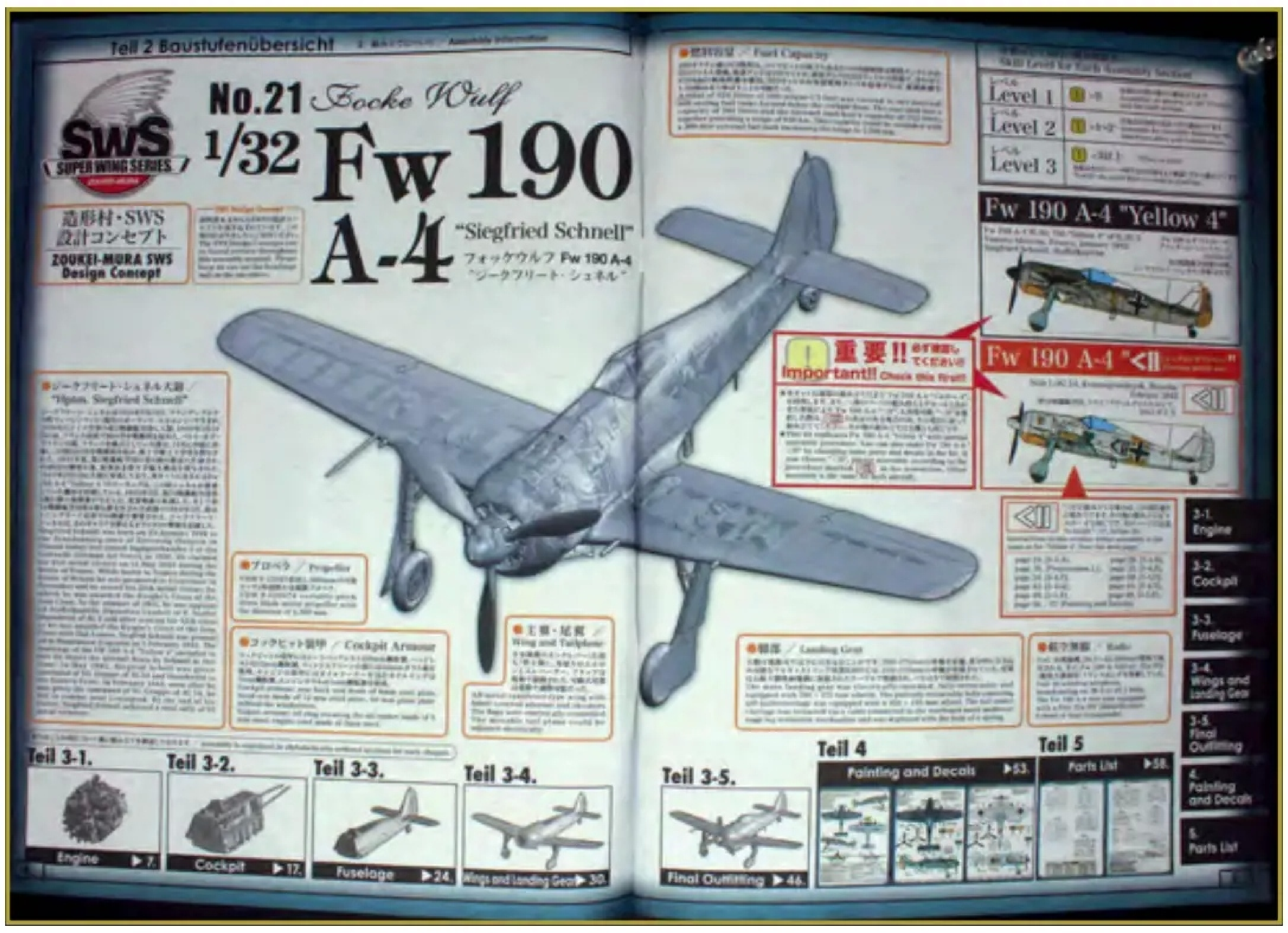
A-20 部品番号 / Part Number	! 組み立ての際の注意点 / Warning Note When Assembling	Option 組立選択 / Assembly Option
塗料番号 / Paint Number	接着しない / Do Not Cement	12 デカール番号 / Decal Number
接着位置 / Cementing position	Cut 不要部分をカットする / Cut the parts you don't need	1.0 穴開け箇所と穴の直径 / Hole's Position and Diameter

ファレホカラー番号 / Vallejo Color Numbers

71063 (MA063)	シルバー RLM01 (メタリック) / Corresponding Mr. Color : C8 SILVER	71040 (MA040)	バーントアンバー / Corresponding Mr. Color : C131 RED BROWN
71044 (MA044)	グレー RLM02 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C60 RLM02 GRAY	71073 (MA073)	ブラック (メタリック) / Corresponding Mr. Color : C28 STEEL
71078 (MA078)	イエロー RLM04 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C113 RLM04 YELLOW	71088 (MA088)	フレンチブルー / Corresponding Mr. Color : C65 BRIGHT BLUE
71001 (MA001)	ホワイト / Corresponding Mr. Color : C1 WHITE	71102 (MA102)	レッド / Corresponding Mr. Color : C114 RLM23 RED
71057 (MA057)	ブラック / Corresponding Mr. Color : C33 FLAT BLACK	70988 (MC115)	カーキ / Corresponding Mr. Color : C55 KHAKI
71255 (MA255)	ライトブルー RLM65 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C115 RLM65 Light Blue	70976 (MC120)	バフ / Corresponding Mr. Color : C45 SAIL COLOR
71055 (MA055)	ブラックグレー RLM66 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C116 RLM66 BLACK GRAY	70982 (MC137)	キャバリーブラウン / Corresponding Mr. Color : C29 HULL RED
71021 (MA021)	ブラックグリーン RLM70 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C18 RLM70 BLACK GREEN	70801 (MC174)	ブラス (真鍮色) / Corresponding Mr. Color : MC219 BRASS
71258 (MA258)	グレーグリーン RLM74 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C36 RLM74 GRAY GREEN	70934 (MC186)	透明レッド / Corresponding Mr. Color : C47 CLEAR RED
71259 (MA259)	グレーバイオレット RLM75 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C37 RLM75 GRAY VIOLET	70938 (MC187)	透明ブルー / Corresponding Mr. Color : C50 CLEAR BLUE
71257 (MA257)	ライトブルー RLM76 / Corresponding Mr. Color : C117 RLM76 LIGHT BLUE		

Instruction Book defines each assembly chapter, details specific aircraft to be modelled and painting/decaling guide. Running along the bottom is a storyboard defining sequence of building this wonderful kit.

Library quality instructions including full paint chip samples with Vallejo Colour numbers.



Teil 2 Baustufenübersicht

SWS SUPER WING SERIES

No.21 Focke Wulf 1/32 Fw 190 A-4 "Siegfried Schnell"

フォッケウルフ Fw 190 A-4 "ジーグフリート・シュネル"

造形村・SWS 設計コンセプト ZOUKEI-MURA SWS Design Concept

Level 1
Level 2
Level 3

Fw 190 A-4 "Yellow 4"

Fw 190 A-4 "<II"

重要!! Important!! Check this first!

- Teil 3-1. Engine ▶7
- Teil 3-2. Cockpit ▶17
- Teil 3-3. Fuselage ▶24
- Teil 3-4. Wings and Landing Gear ▶30
- Teil 3-5. Final Outfitting ▶46
- Teil 4 Painting and Decals ▶53
- Teil 5 Parts List ▶58

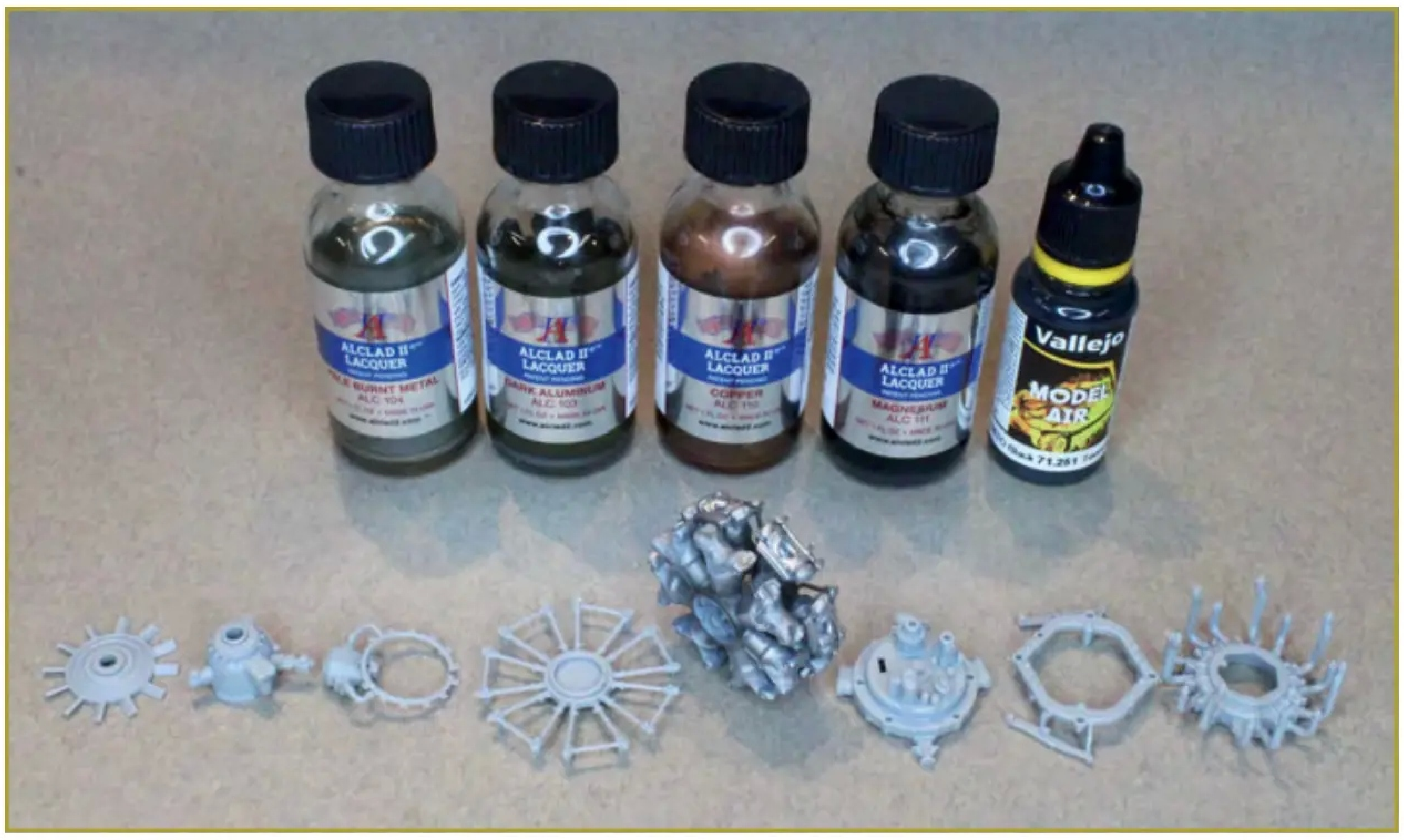
IN THE BOX

This is a high-volume injection moulded model and my first Zoukei-Mura kit to build. There are many in my unbuilt collection, and this, is an impressive model just sitting in its box unassembled. Quality moulded parts, high end graphic instruction booklet and decals. “Wow” is the word that comes from my mouth when opening the box. The colour decals and instructions well define and illustrate two different aircraft. One, “Yellow 4” of JG 2 flown in January 1943 and the second “Chevron Double Bar” of Stab 1/JG 54 in winter camouflage during Russian campaign February 1943. The engineers of these SWS kits do a magnificent job.

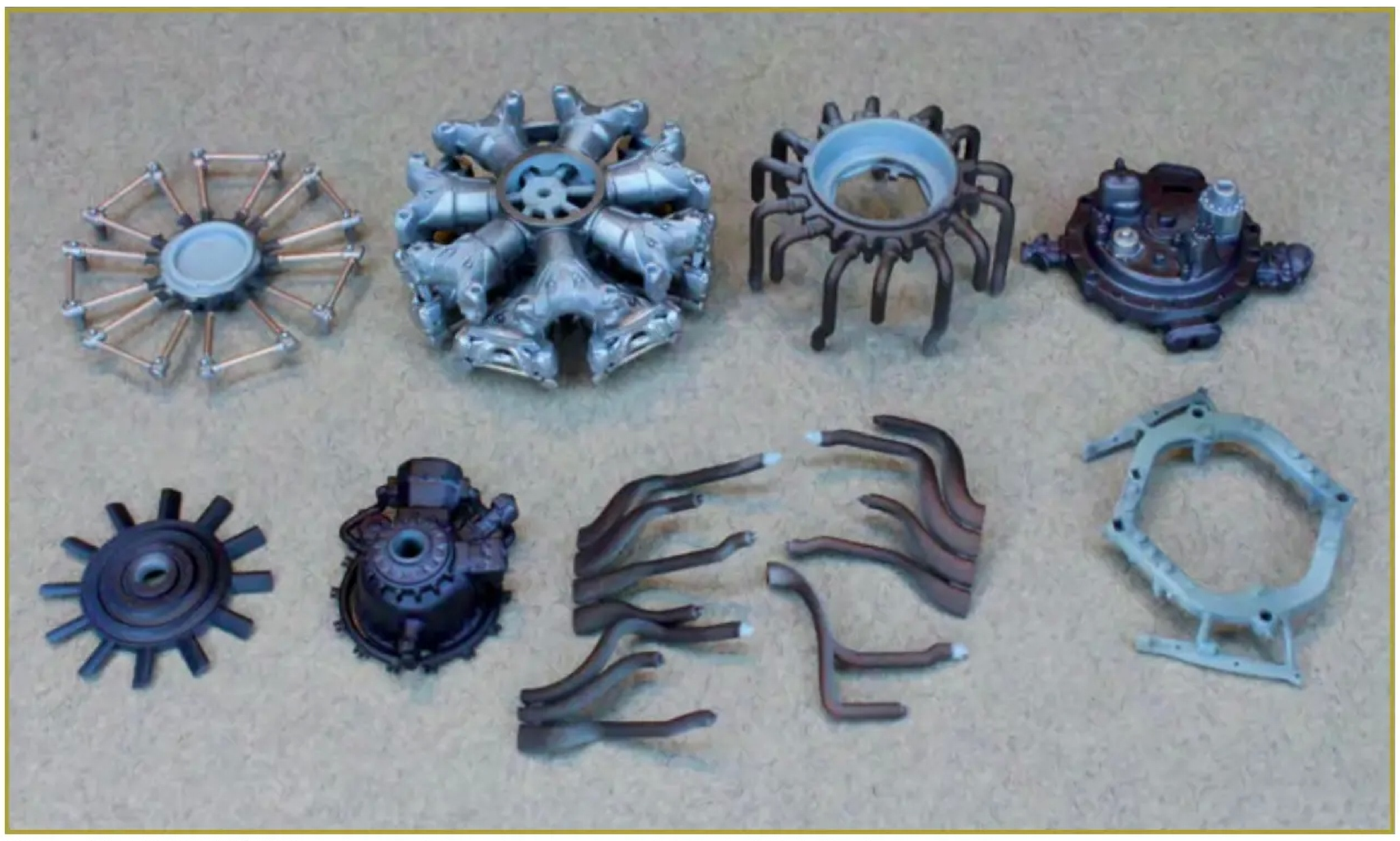
CONSTRUCTION

The kit detail is great straight from the box. I intend to keep the canopy opened to show cockpit detail. I am going to add state-of-art 3-D printed cockpit dashboard placards and resin wheels. Do not get me wrong, the kit dashboard decals, and clear parts are high quality with thorough painting instructions. The use of the 3D printed dashboard decals adds impressive detail and simplicity to build sequence.

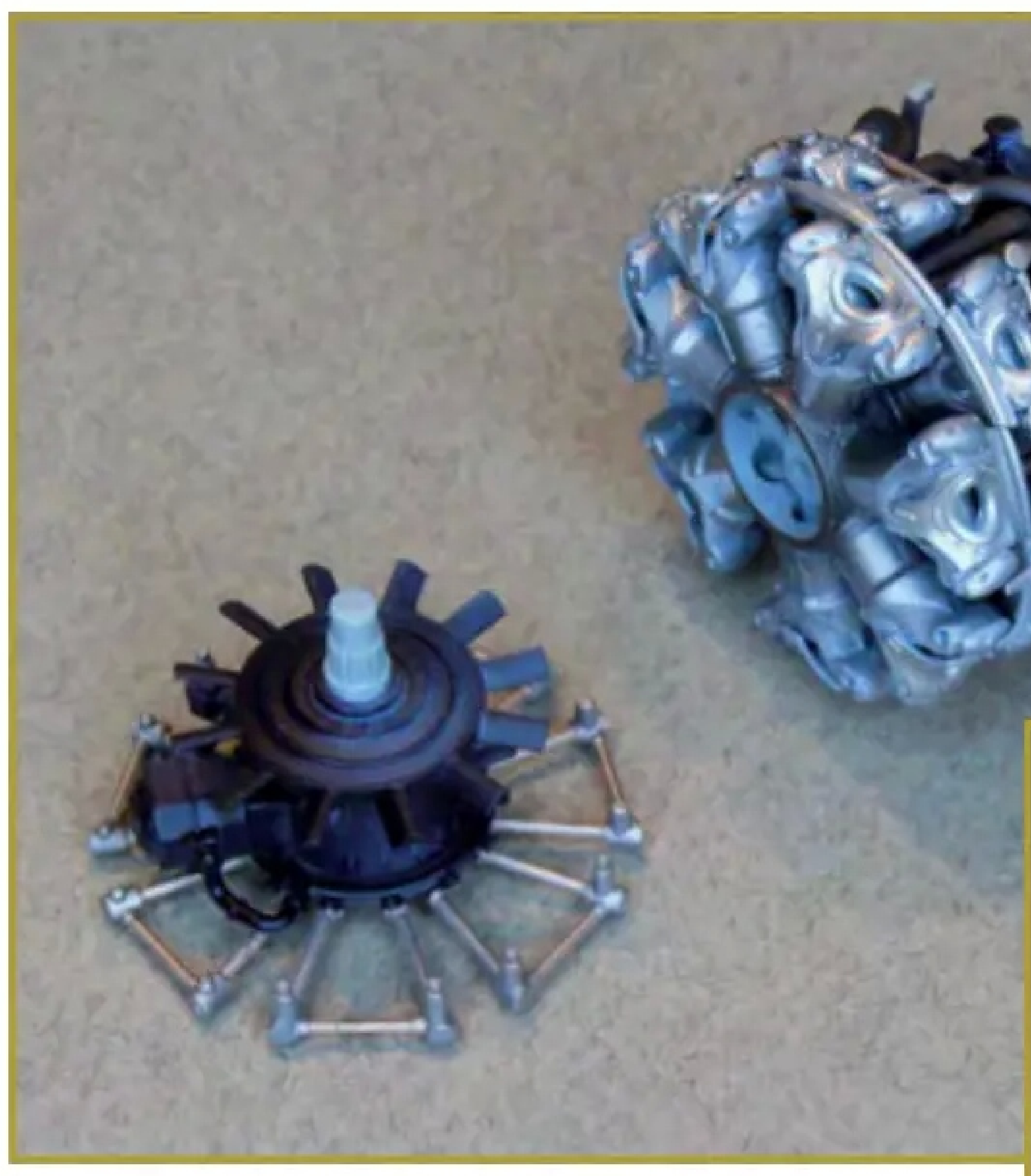
The kits sub-assemblies, cockpit and engine assemble cleanly and precisely. Each is a nice little model itself and that’s how I treated them. It allows more focused attention to each feature, cockpit, etc…... and keeps me from rushing to final assembly and paint phase. I am planning on painting this Fw190 A-4 differently than the aircraft portrayed in the instructions. I am always looking for the most appealing paint scheme, in this case, I will be painting an aircraft from 1/JG1 with striped cowling and unique group markings. The black and white striped cowling is just too appealing to me. These identifying graphics have such a medieval look, like bunting on a Bavarian castle hundreds of years ago. Combined that with the Group markings, just a very graphically engaging paint scheme. ▶



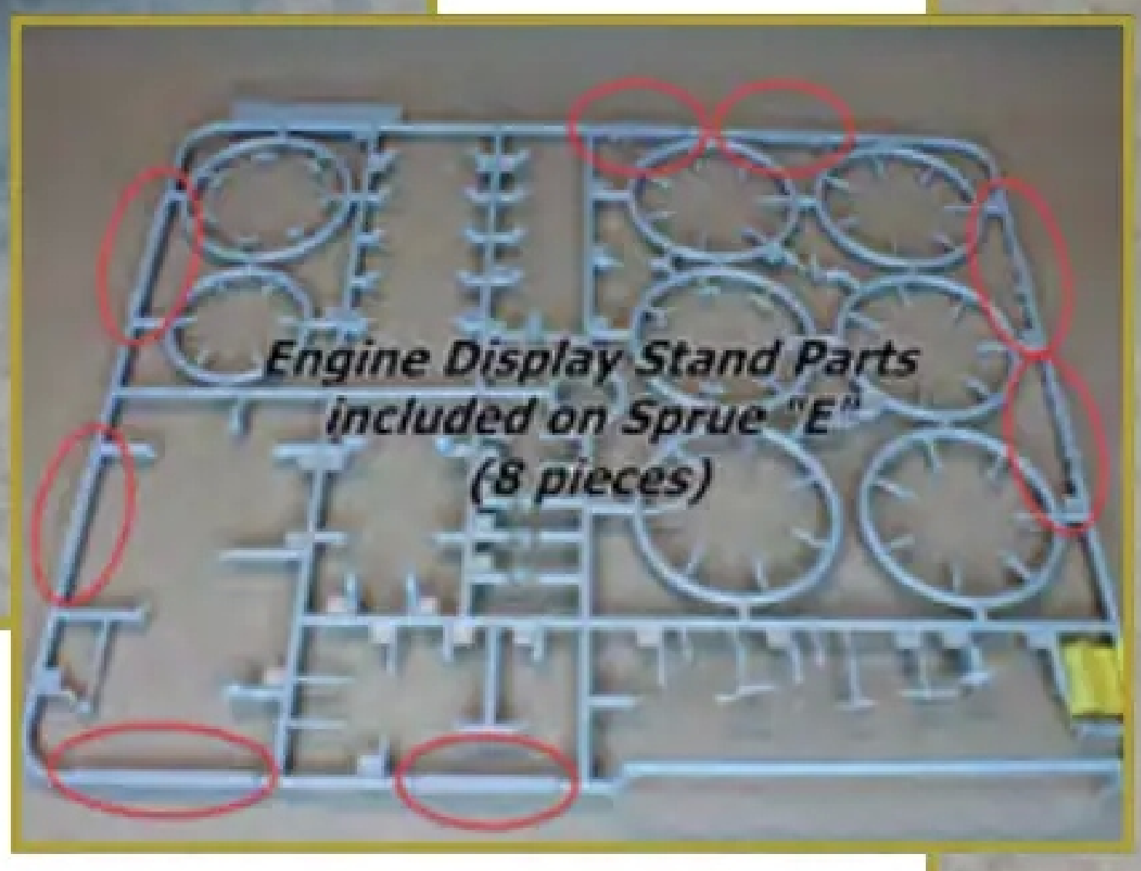
Engine parts primed and ready for painting.

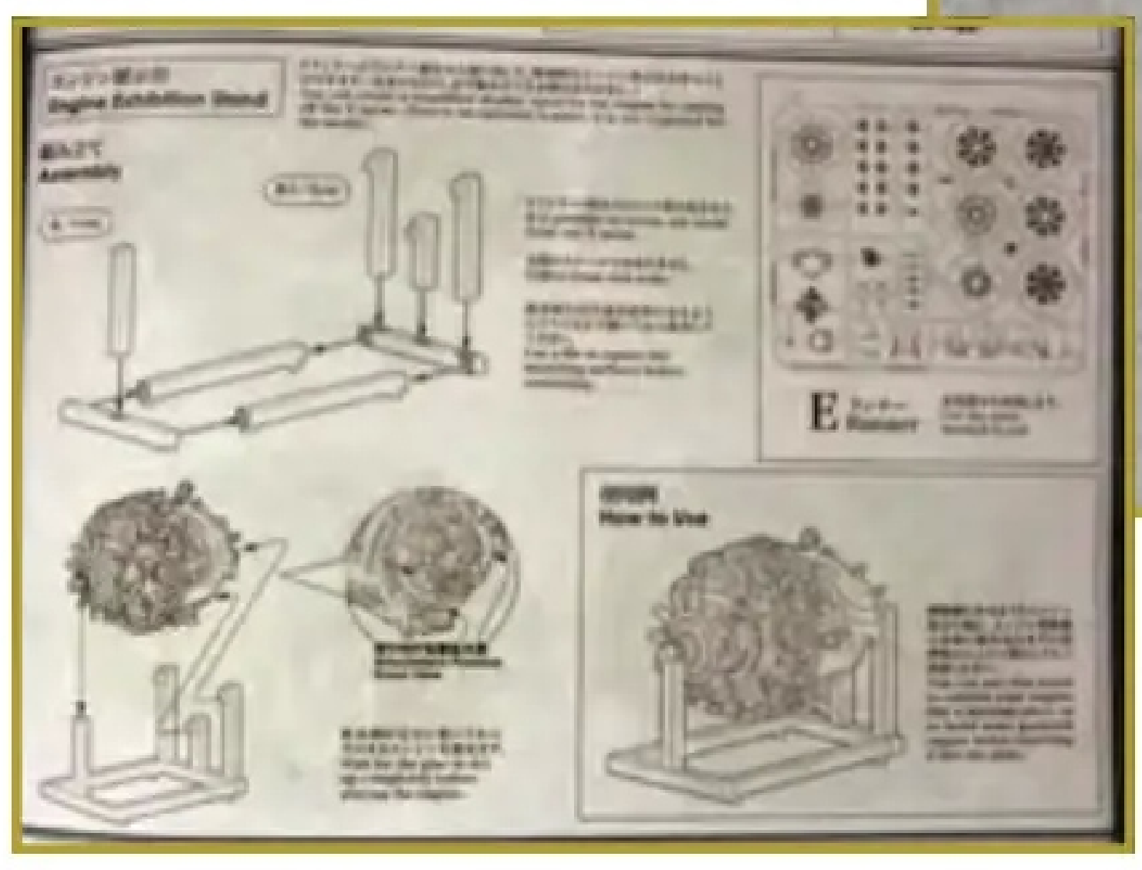


Kit provided BMW 801 D-2 engine and its major components painted Alclad colours.

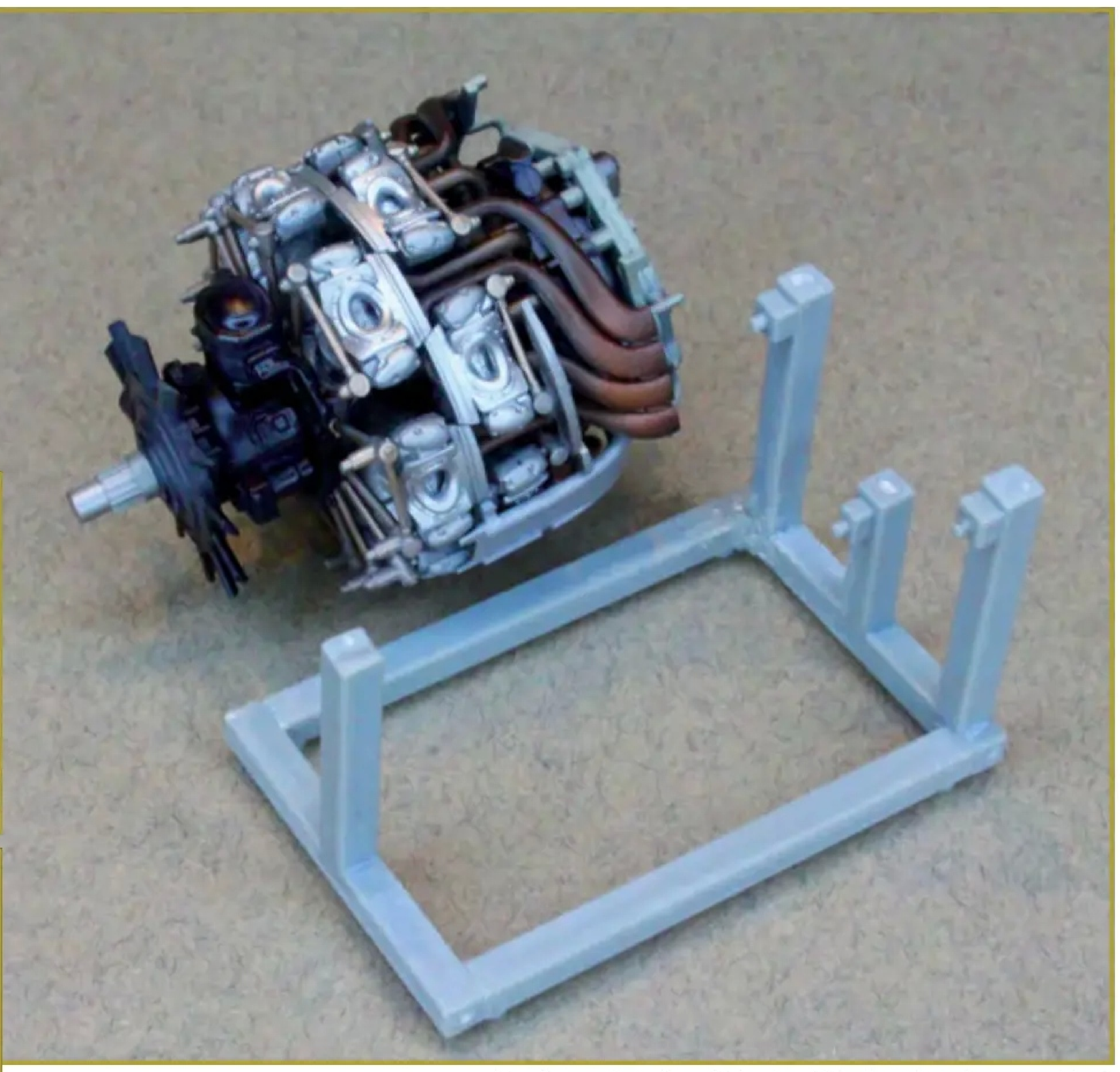


Top side of engine prior to weathering.



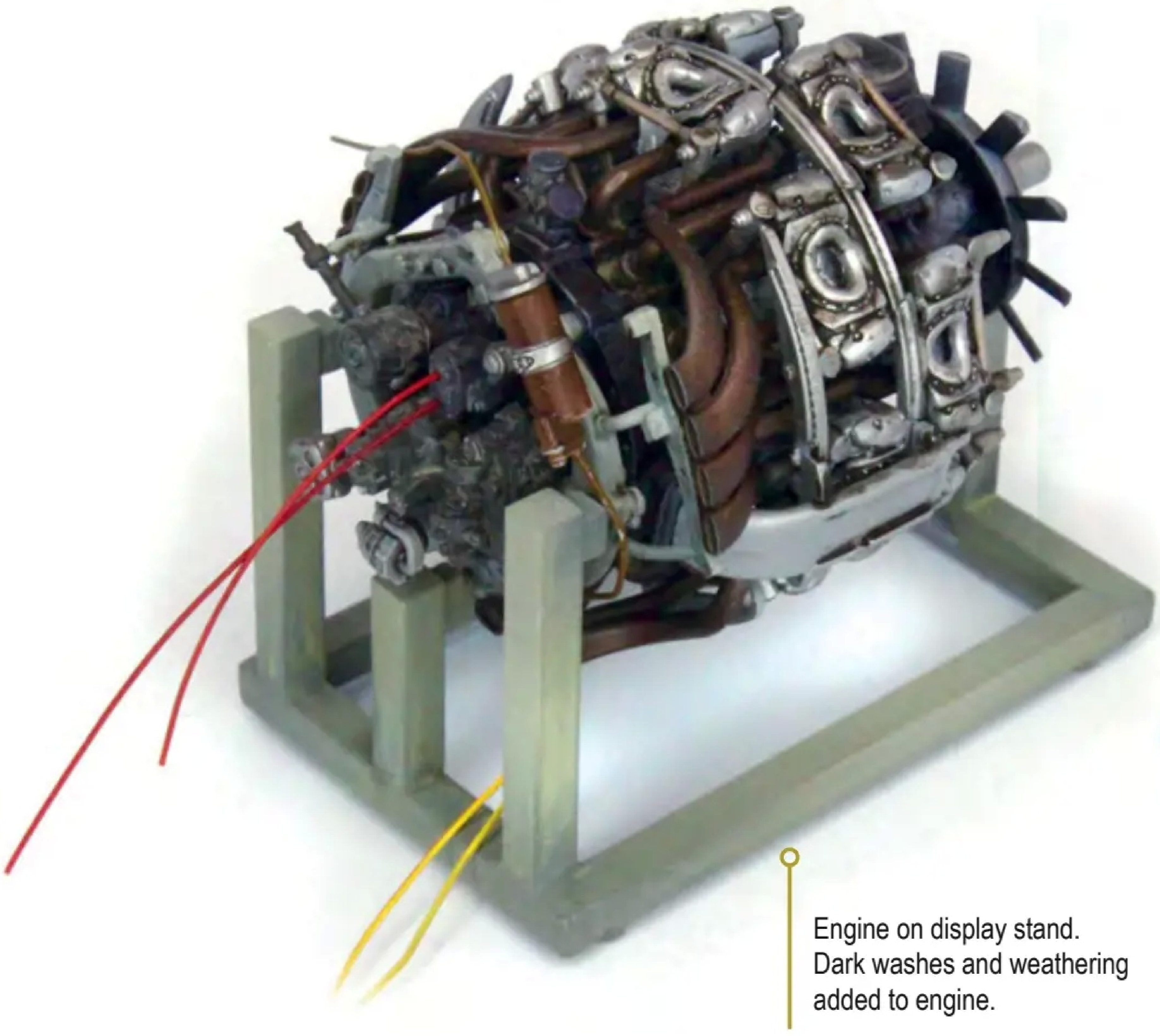


The Engine Display Stand parts are not just on Sprue “E”, ...they are Sprue “E”! Instructions page 15 detail the location of Engine Display Stand parts on Sprue “E” and assembly.

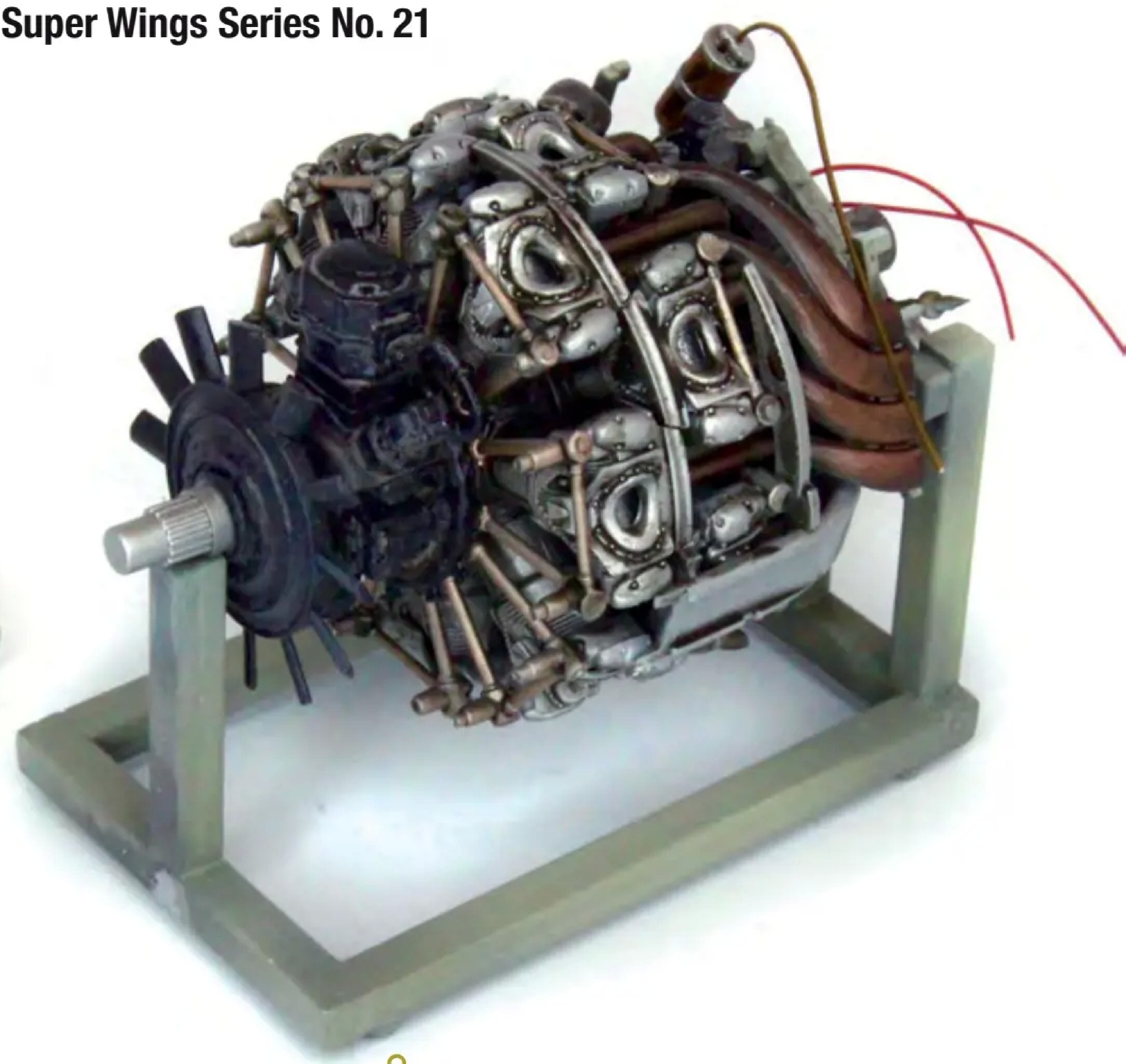


Engine painted and Engine Display Stand assembled.

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 Siegfried Schnell, Super Wings Series No. 21



Engine on display stand.
Dark washes and weathering added to engine.



The inclusion of the engine display stand illustrates how well Zoukei-Mura engineered this model. The stand provides presentation quality of the engine by itself, and from a technical standpoint, including the stand as a part of the sprue is almost ingenious. It's just well thought out engineering and good execution!

ENGINE ASSEMBLY

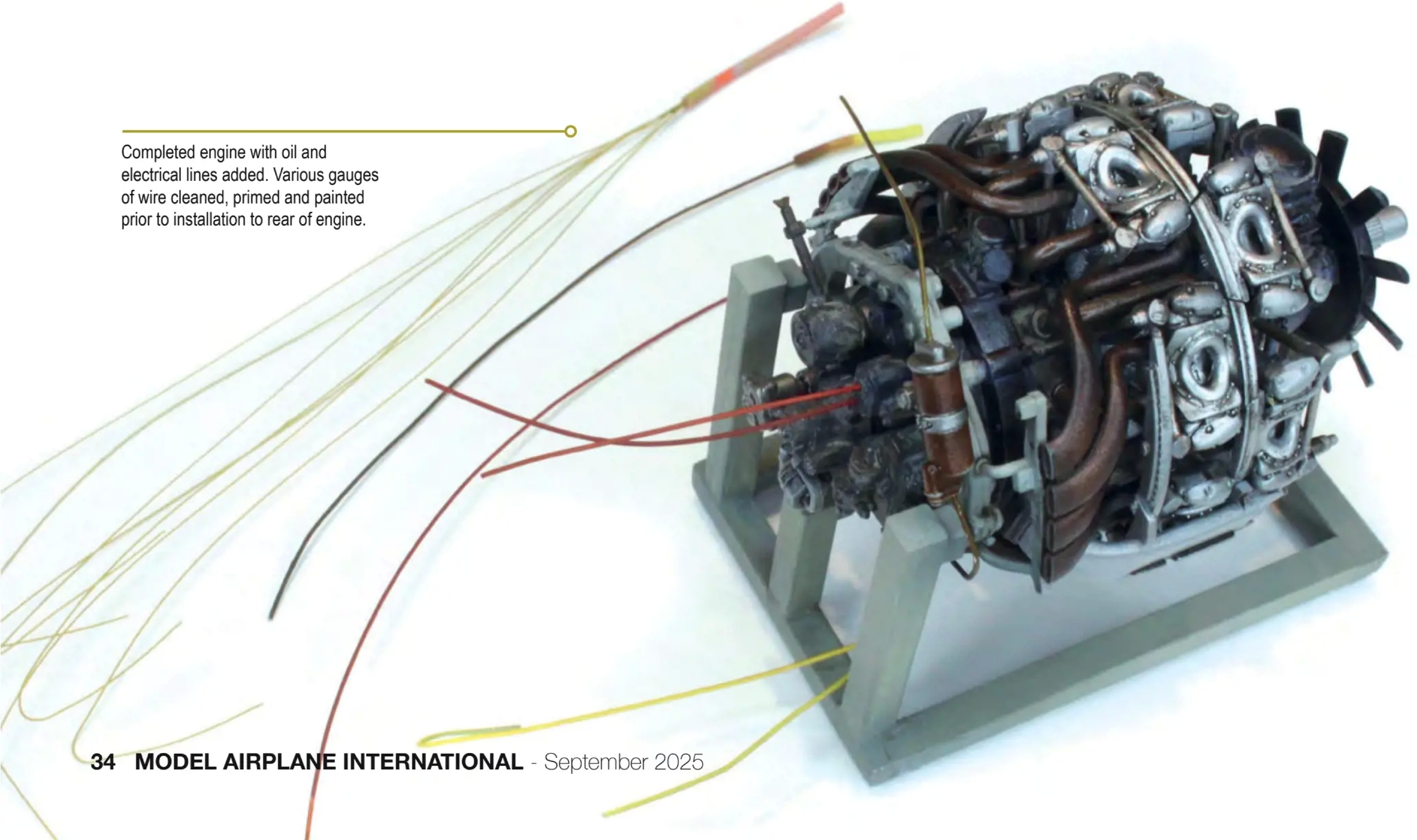
Engine from kit was assembled per the instructions, 10 pages worth of assembly and painting direction and includes photographs of the painting process. Graphically, this portrayal is like a running storyboard along the bottom of each page. The photos show multiple angles of the engine along with colour callouts for absolute clarity. The instructions for the engine also have what are called "SWS Design Concept"?

(Step 3-1 O page 14) inset captions of facts about the real engine detailing the unique mechanical features of this BMW motor. A really good way to include facts of the real aircraft. I used 5 different metallic colours and mixtures of these to cover the engine, cylinder heads, mounting frame and oil lines.

The twin row cylinder banks are nicely detailed and assemble easily. The instructions are very clear with assembly sequence and painting of all the components. The story-board type painting instructions run along the bottom of the page, so clear and beautifully illustrated.

The BMW engine has a notably different style pushrod assembly, oil tank, cooling fan and shaped engine mounting frame.

Bulkhead details were added to connect wire harnesses and fuel lines. Then, lines will be added to connect the fuel and electrical controls to the rear of engine. All the added oil, fuel and electric lines in the engine compartment were solder wire of various gauges, cleaned, primed and painted prior to installation.



Completed engine with oil and electrical lines added. Various gauges of wire cleaned, primed and painted prior to installation to rear of engine.

Now, stating the obvious, Zoukei-Mura engineering is outstanding in its planning and execution. With the engine Sprue "E", the parts are all nicely detailed and moulded. The gate locations are well placed as not to negatively impact sculpted details. The engine parts assemble with exact locating pins and keys. Even the exhaust manifolds and pipes assemble accurately as well engineered parts should.

Now for my first big wow feature about this kit. I am a stickler to how my models are presented and I am always looking for the best way to display my work. Once again, Z-M has thought of this with the engine by including an engine display stand for the BMW801 powerplant. To their credit, they have included this display stand on Sprue "E". These eight parts are not only on Sprue "E", ...they are Sprue "E"! The parts are moulded as a part of the sprue outer perimeter runner. This is just a smart way to use material and to mould this small gem of a feature.

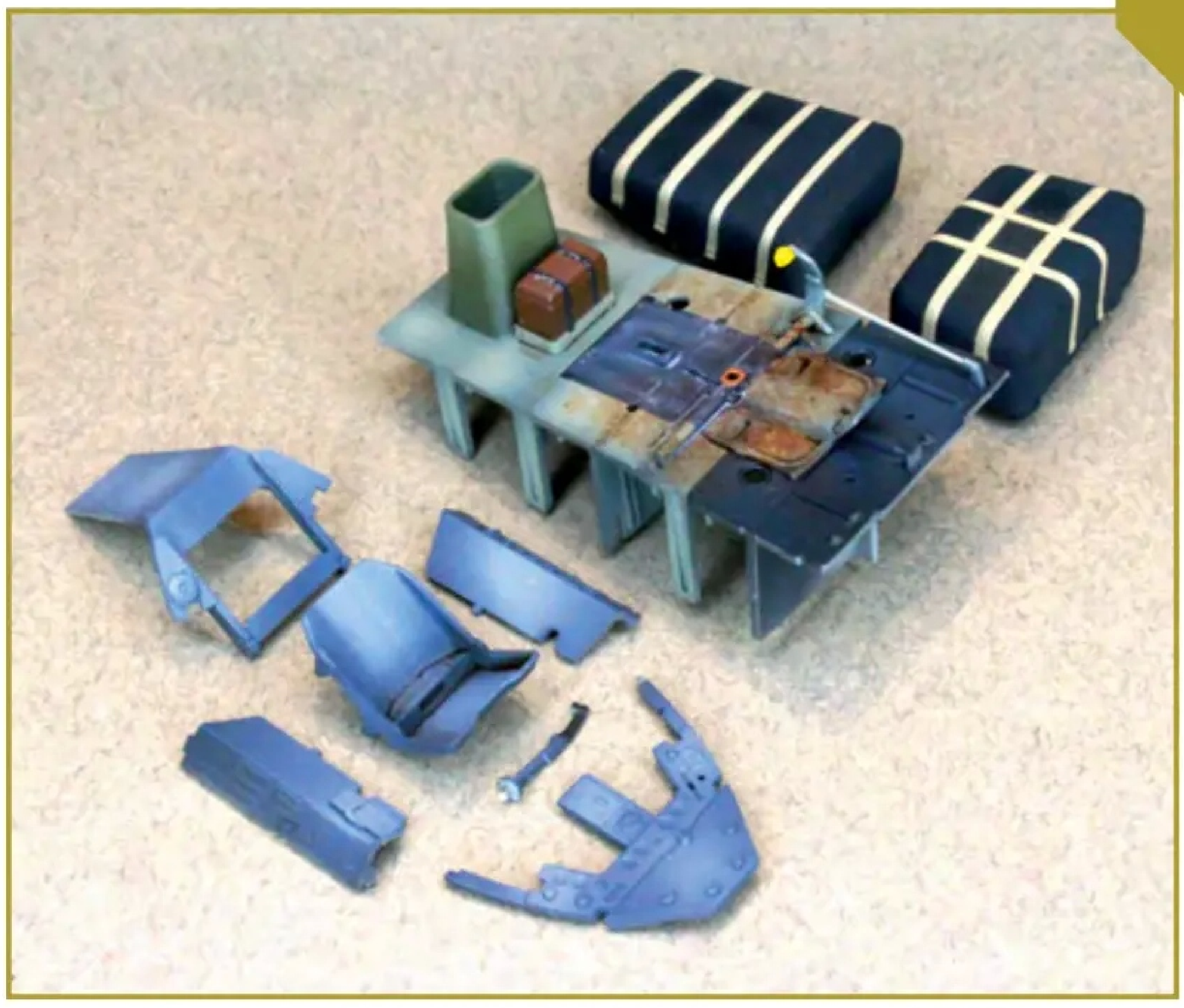
I recommend following the supplemental instruction sheet on how to attach the engine to the airframe. Recommend installing part E-5 and E-23 as shown here in supplement instruction sheet. This assembly technique is STEP 2. Engine Mount B (choose from either way to attach) and included in the photos of this article. This means, part E-5 engine mounting ring will not be installed or glued in earlier Step 3-1 I on page 11.

COCKPIT

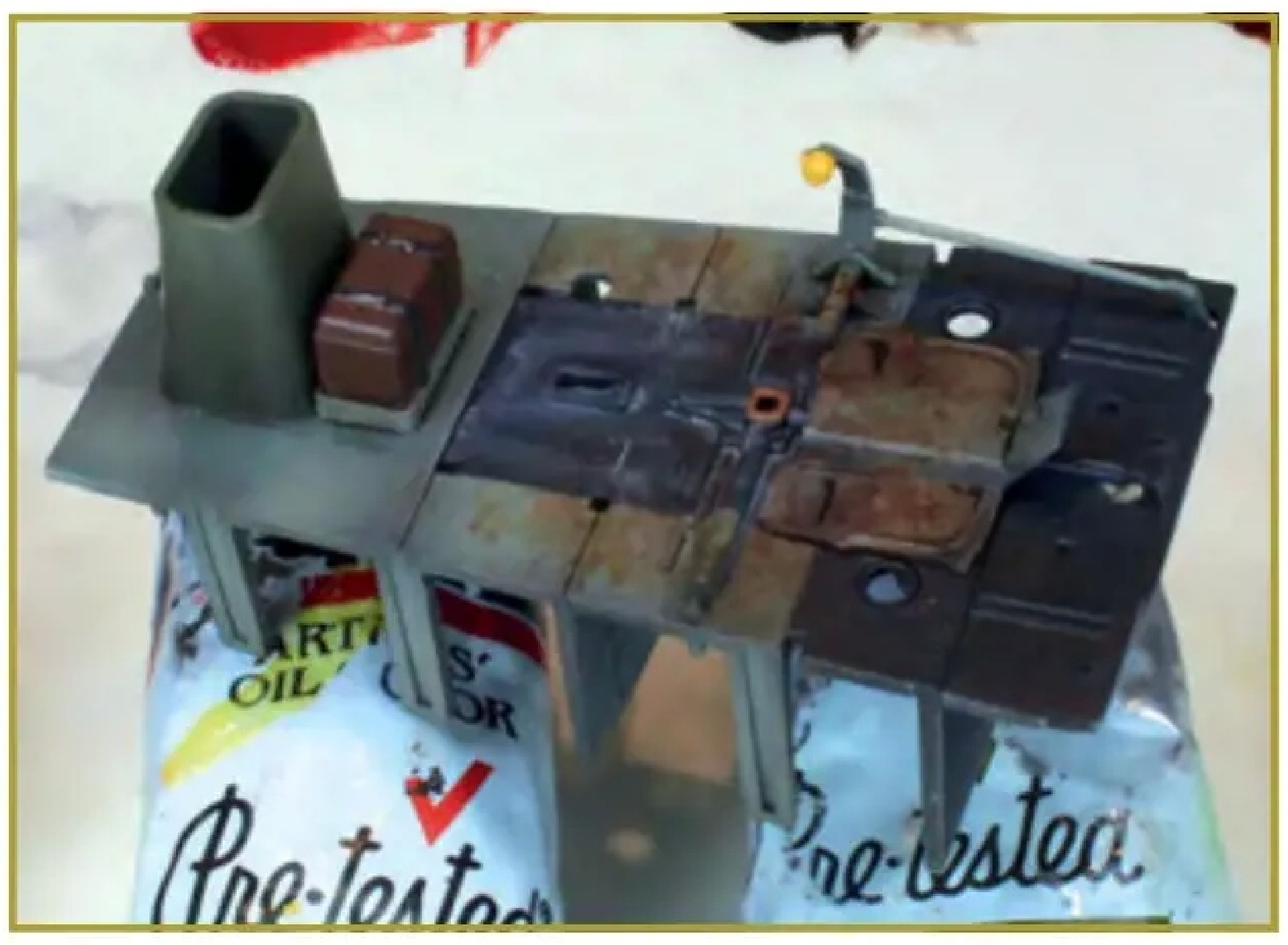
The cockpit is comprised of a major floorboard/bulkhead piece with the lever details, dashboard and other control features as separate pieces. The instructions on the cockpit are clear and concise and illustrates assembly of pieces. The instruction booklet is absolutely state-of-art with illustrations and photos.

The cockpit was painted RLM66 Grey and RLM02 Grey Green. Following painting of these parts, I wanted to add 3D dashboard decal set and other interior decals from Quinta Studios designed specifically for this Z-M model. There are thirty 3D decals included with the set along with the seat belts. They remove from the paper backing just as any other water-slide decal should, and then glued to the plastic parts. The thought of adding after-market parts to a Z-M kit is not automatic, but with the advances in our hobby with 3-D printing, adding cockpit details and dashboards makes good sense. The fidelity of the after-market cockpit decals is in line with the superior quality of a Z-M kit.

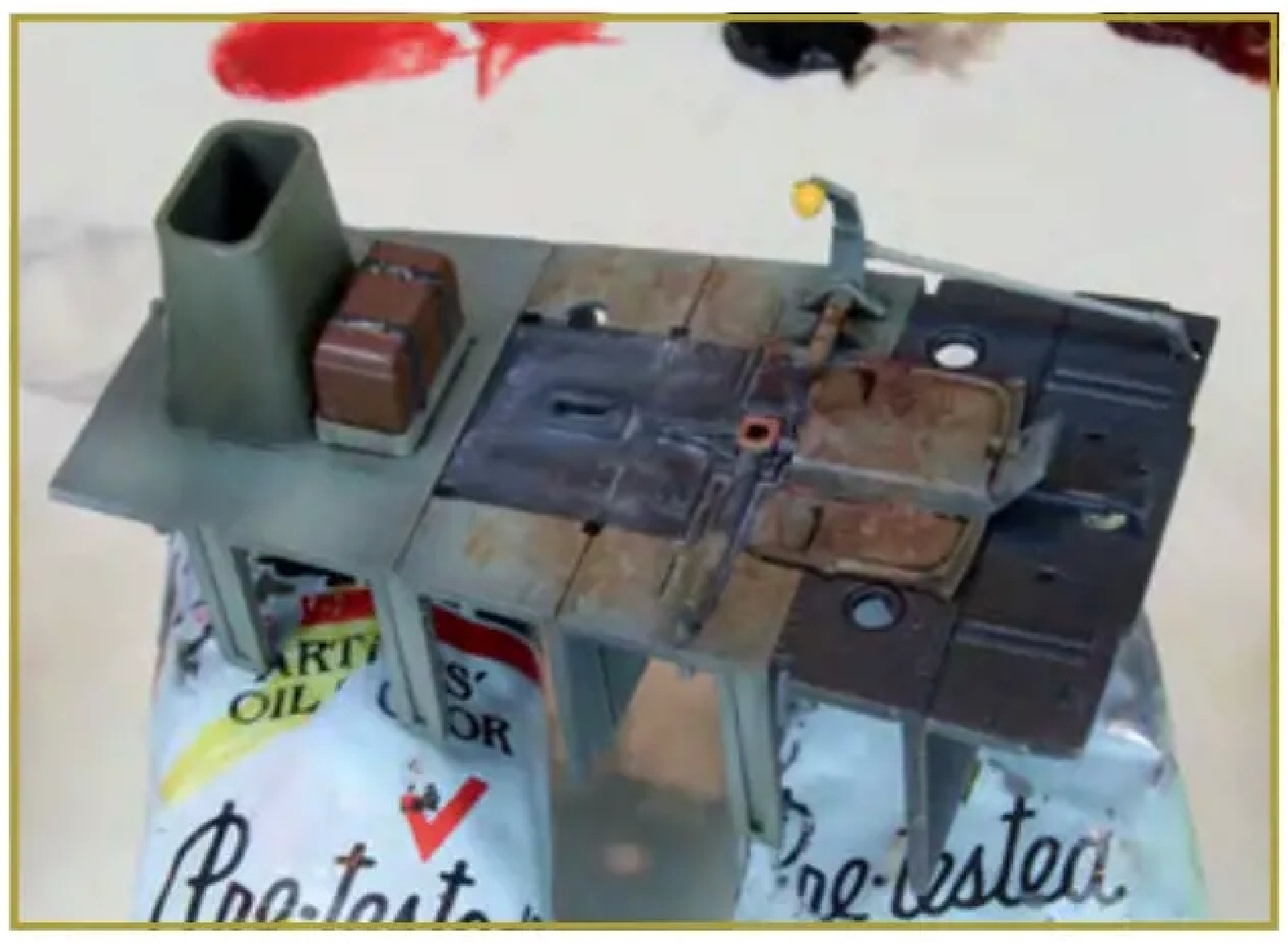
Cockpit and floorboard were weathered using oil paints. Four different colours were used in a layered manor each separated by a clear gloss layer. The cockpit represents where my modelling skills are ▶



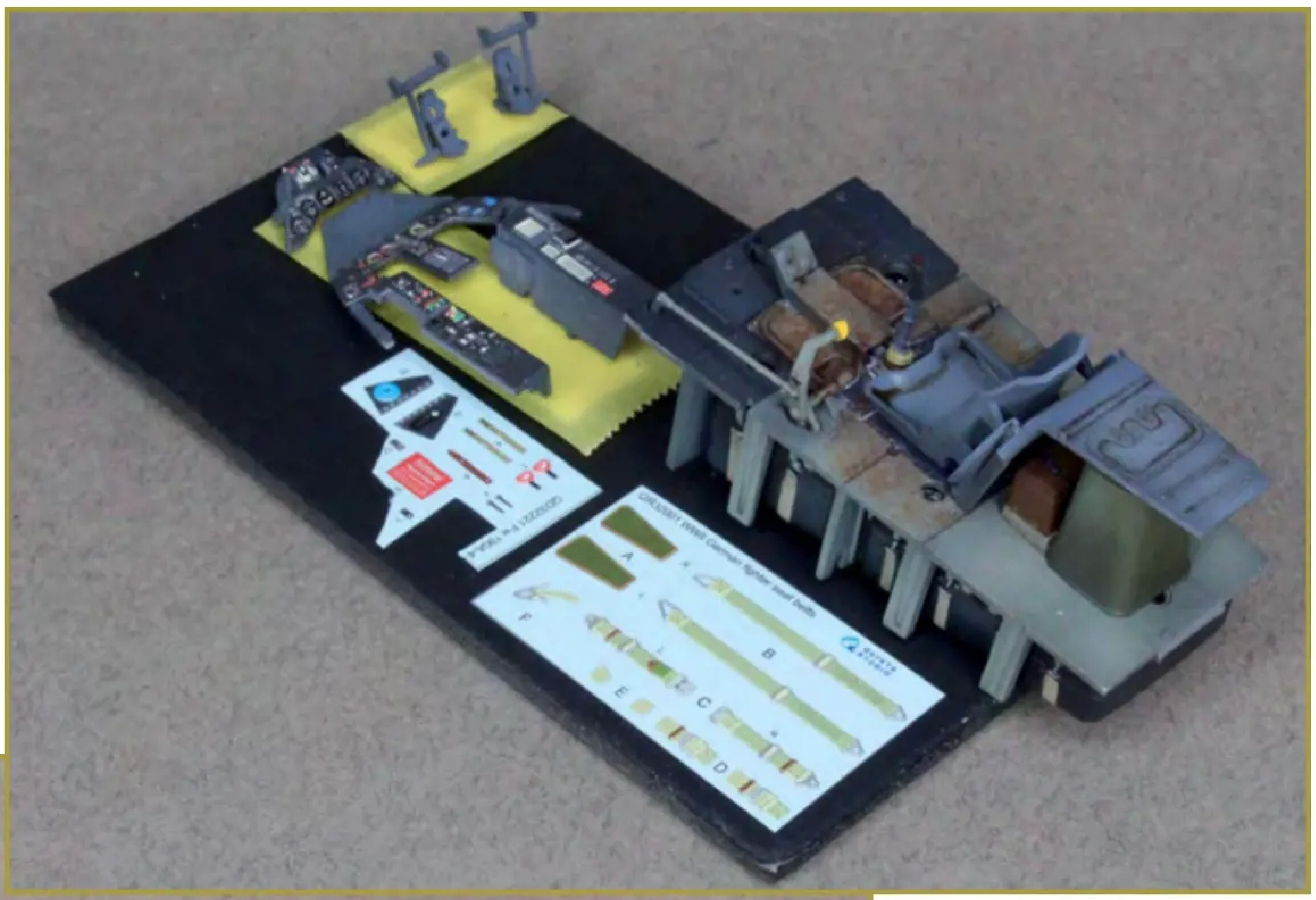
Cockpit's major components unassembled.



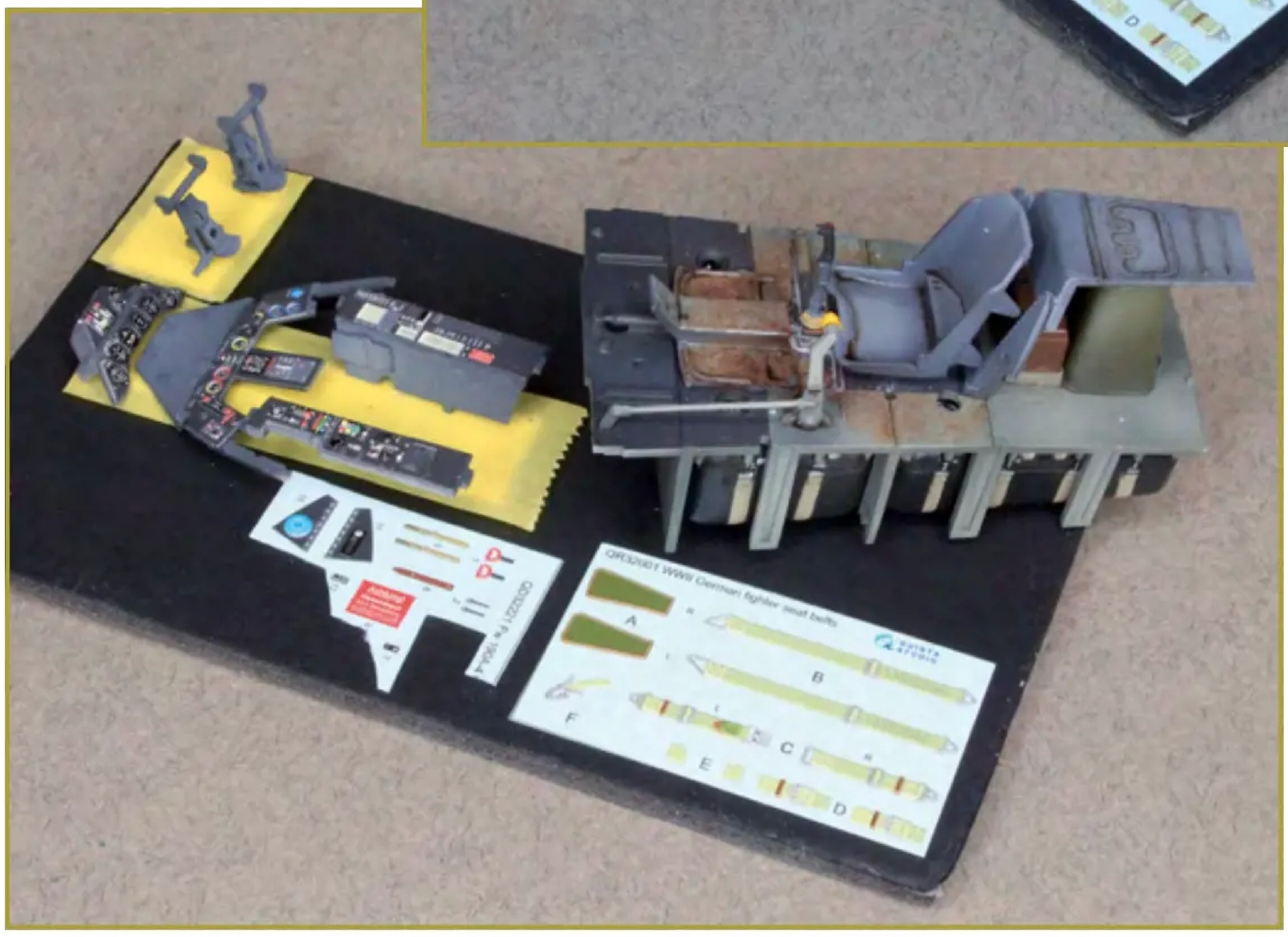
Oil paints used to weather the floorboard. Several colours were mixed and applied darkest to lightest, each separated by a clear gloss coat layer.



Pushing the level of weathering in the cockpit. Safe to say, there were no floor mats in Luftwaffe planes during the war and boot grime will show up on cockpit floorboard. A flat coat was applied to finish the floorboard weathering.

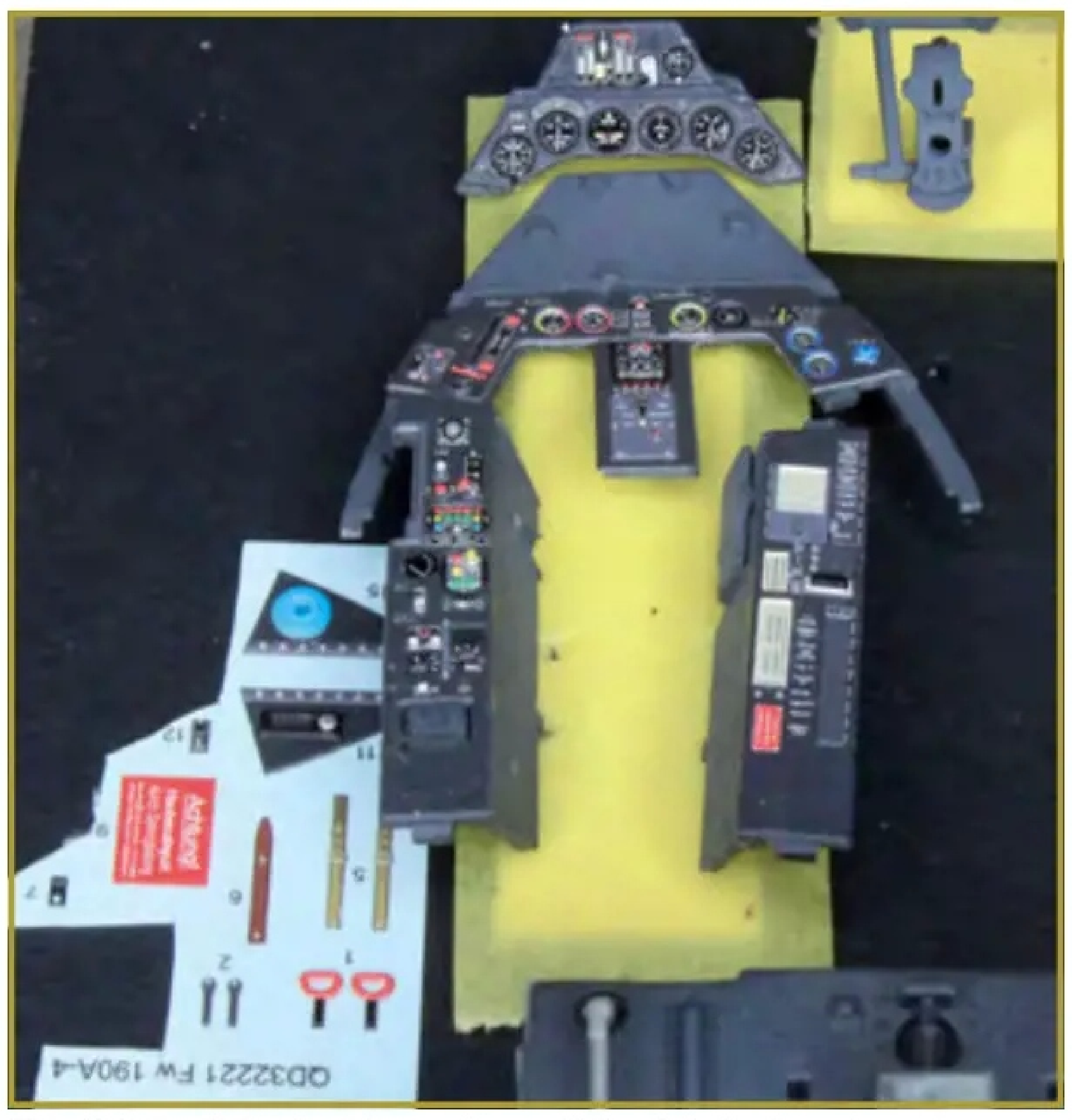


All major cockpit components shown along with placement of the printed 3D decals on the dashboard and side consoles.

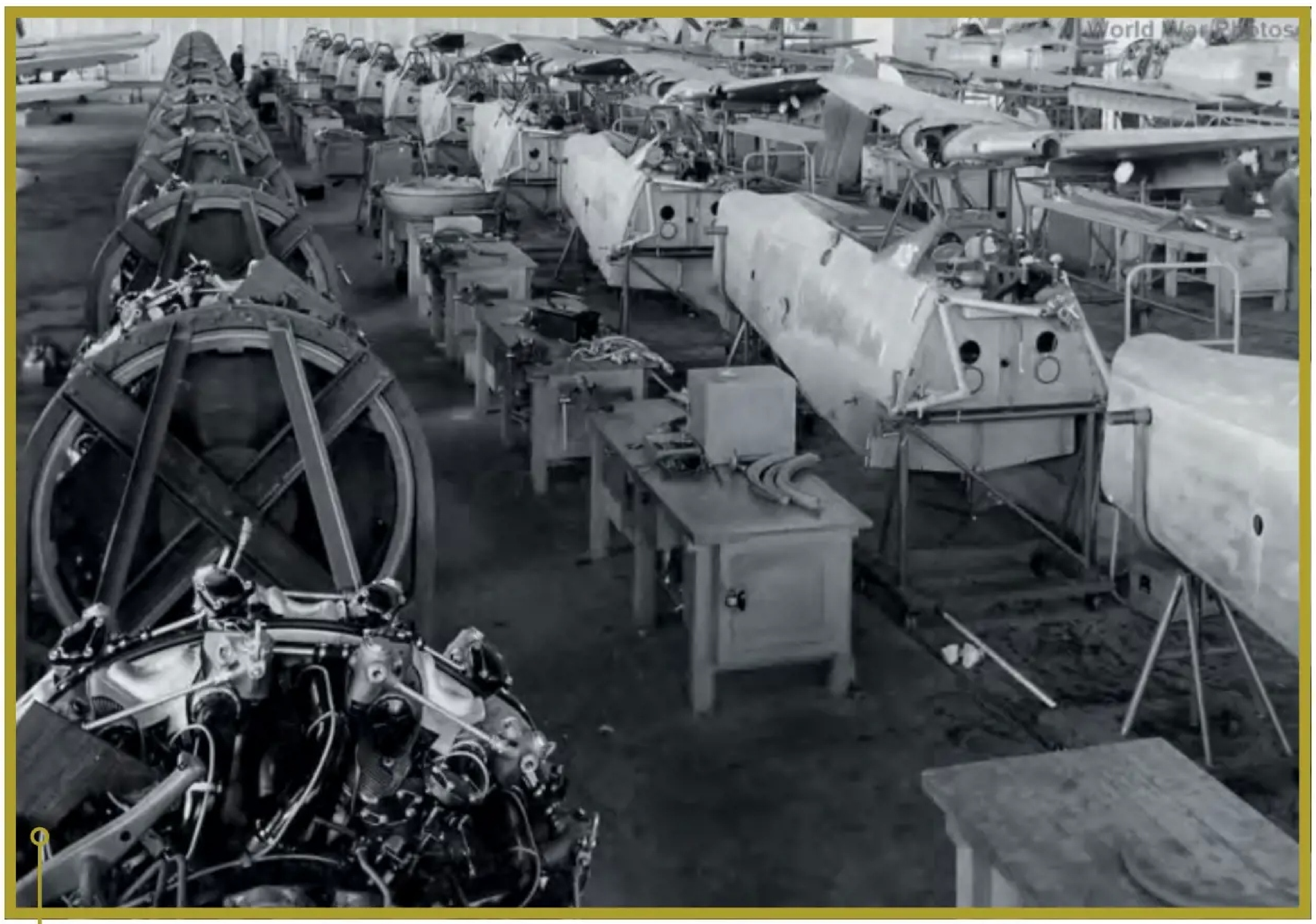


Cockpit decals were attached to the plastic with acrylic clear gloss applied to the panel faces. Shown are the seatbelt decals still on paper prior to application to pilot's seat.

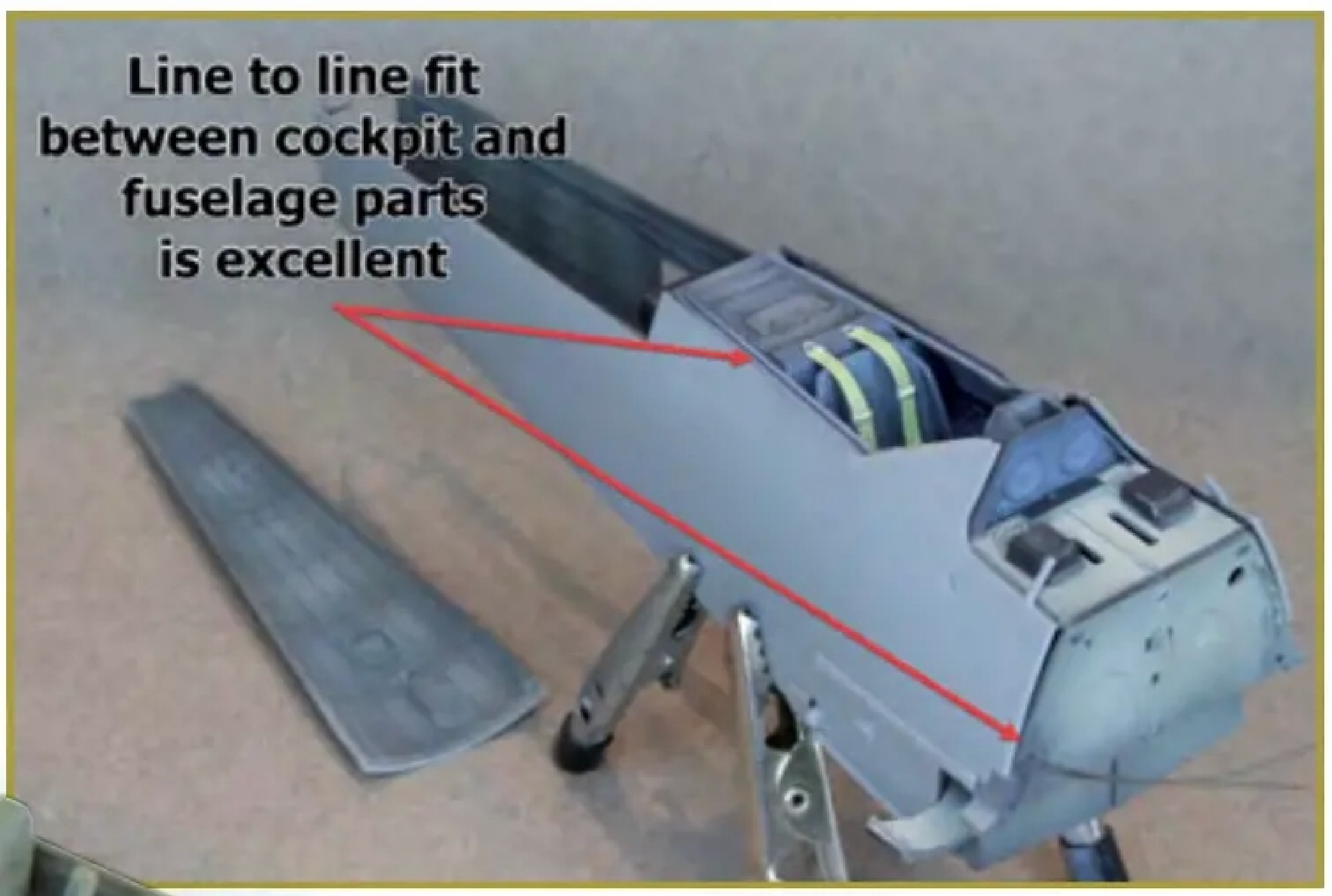
Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 Siegfried Schnell, Super Wings Series No. 21



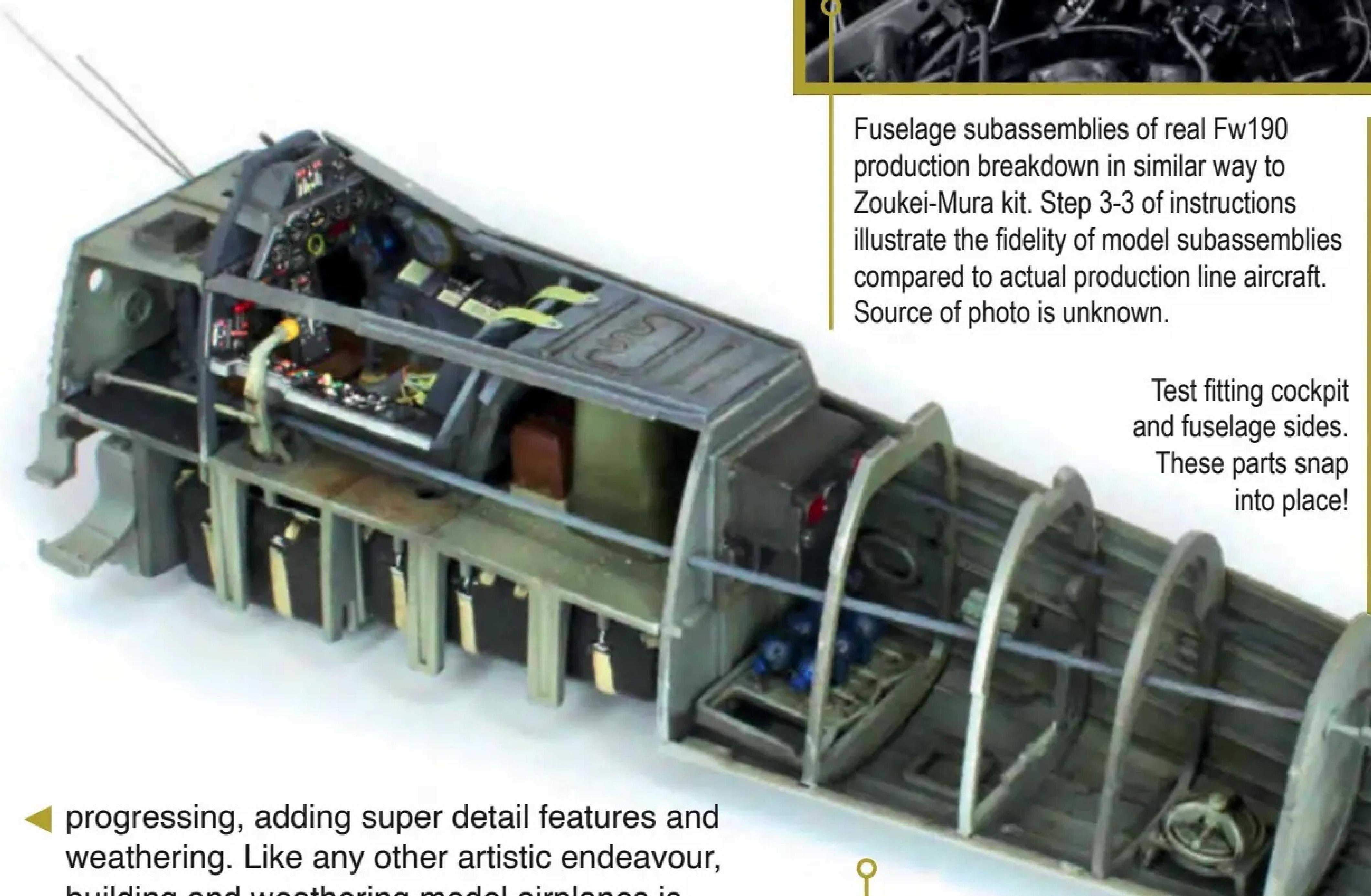
The 3D cockpit decals are incredibly detailed and so easy to install on the kit's plastic parts. How can I not add these decals that are so user friendly to upgrade this spectacular Zoukei-Mura kit!



Fuselage subassemblies of real Fw190 production breakdown in similar way to Zoukei-Mura kit. Step 3-3 of instructions illustrate the fidelity of model subassemblies compared to actual production line aircraft. Source of photo is unknown.

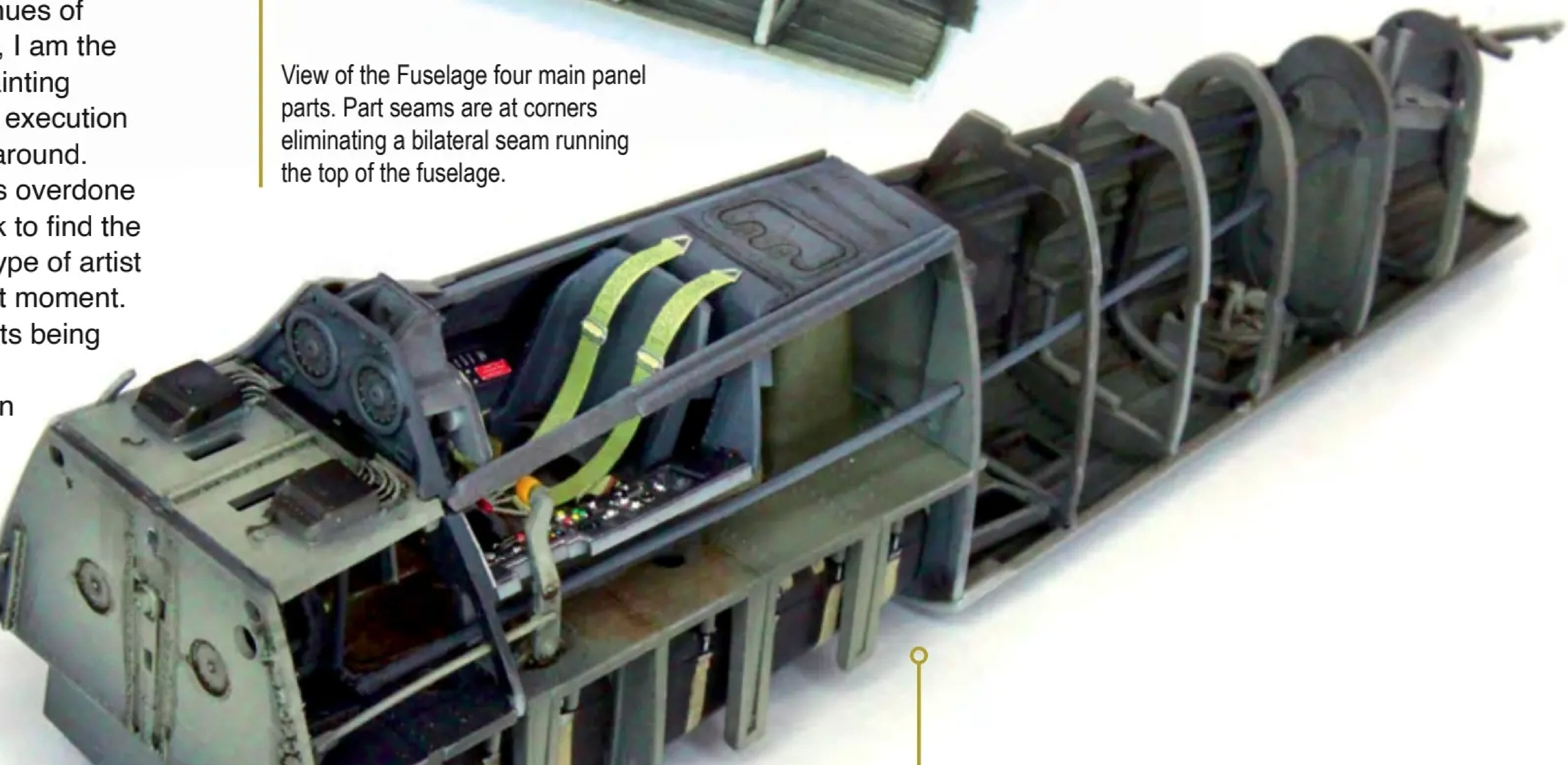

Line to line fit between cockpit and fuselage parts is excellent

Test fitting cockpit and fuselage sides. These parts snap into place!



View of the Fuselage four main panel parts. Part seams are at corners eliminating a bilateral seam running the top of the fuselage.

progressing, adding super detail features and weathering. Like any other artistic endeavour, building and weathering model airplanes is a process. Each of us has our avenues of expertise and growth. For example, I am the type of modeler that discovers a painting technique, employs it, assesses its execution then make revisions the next time around. Usually, the new technique appears overdone and then I scale the technique back to find the best visual impact. That's just the type of artist I am and how I create that breakout moment. This is a result of seeing other artists being too timid with models, drawings or illustrations, and this timid execution is observable. It is easy to spot a timidly built and weathered model. This applies to me with scratch building super details also. I am envious of master builders of scratch-built engines, cockpits, crew stations, etc…. and want to get better at these attributes. With this Z-M Fw-190 A-4, I am increasing the amount of weathering to the internal details of the cockpit, engine and airframe structures. Trying to improve my skills and create that break out moment while working on this kit.



Fuselage internal structures from firewall to tail. Bulkhead parts in this view are not yet glued, but their precise placement and locations are guaranteed by great engineering of this kit.

Tail subassembly ready for painting.

Resin wheels were drilled to fit landing gear struts.

Wheels painted, decaled and washes applied.

FUSELAGE ASSEMBLY

Fuselage assembly is in segments that build off the finished cockpit. Overall, the fuselage is comprised of four panels with seams running at the corners, there is no bi-lateral seam. My second big wow comment is the inside details of the airframe. That includes bulkheads, radio gear, oxygen bottles and elevator control rods. This assembly sequence allows the internal airframe details to be added. The fit of cockpit to sidewall is precise and accurate. You can see the quality of the model's engineering at STEP 3-3 Fuselage. Parts fit line to line beautifully. There is plenty of opportunity to detail this area and leave it opened for viewing. Starting by attaching the cockpit to right-side fuselage panel, then proceeds to bottom, left side and finishing with top panel. High detail level, precise part engineering and assembly, what more could a modeler want. That is the best way to describe how the fuselage goes together!

All the painting and assembly illustrations are supplemented with the photographic story boards throughout fuselage assembly instructions.

With the way this model assembles, one could see how the real aircraft were manufactured with its subassemblies. Photos of real aircraft production are evidence of this.

The internal airframe structures are modelled from the firewall to the tail. Too bad these details are closed in the rear fuselage. However, radio compartment door can be opened to expose some of this detail. I really look forward to some fellow modeler opening these details up for full viewing in a unique way!

Same goes for the tail subassembly, tail wheel structures are modelled and assemble well. Tail access panel will be opened per instructions to expose these airframe structures.

Engine assembly to the airframe is a little tricky due to the blind pins on the Engine Frame part E-23 and the holes on Engine Mounting Ring Part E-5. I recommend using the alternative assembly technique STEP 2. Engine Mount B included in the photos of this article.

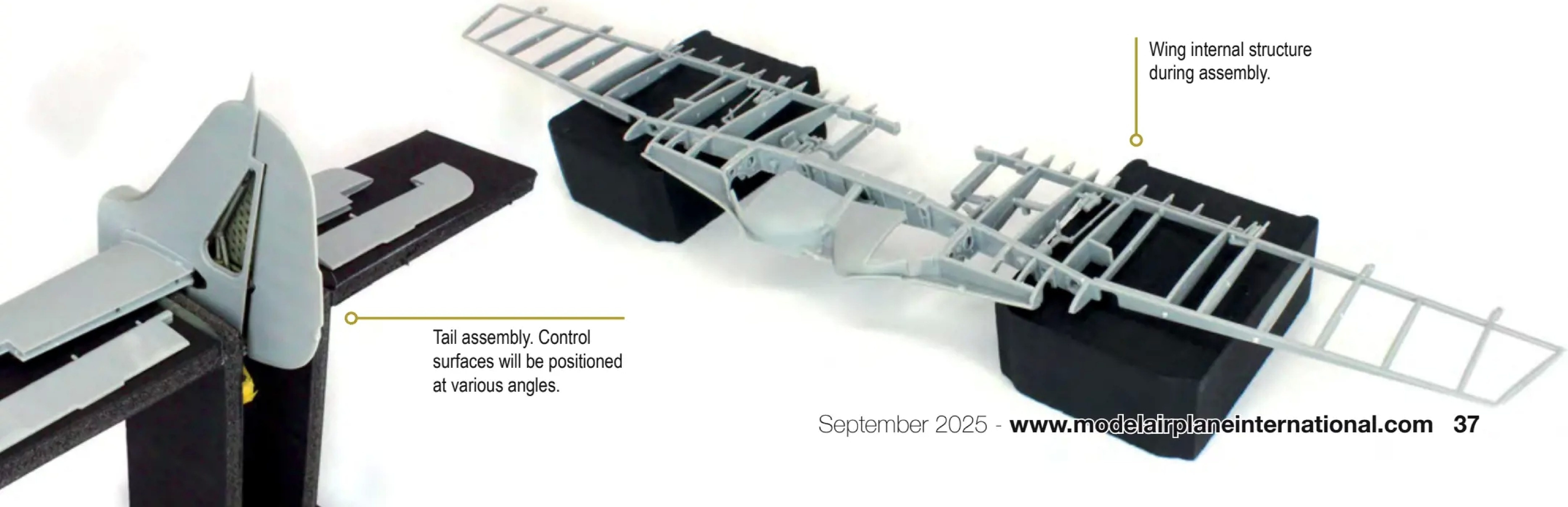
All the moulded detail of the engine and the compartment in front of the firewall really come together visually. It just appears so complicated as a total assembly, but seemed relatively simple looking with the subassemblies of airframe and engine. I will be adding wiring harnesses made of solder wire painted in various colours to super detail this area of the airframe.

WING ASSEMBLY

Wing assembly starts with connecting left and right internal airframe lattice, progresses to wheel-wells, gun mounts and external surfaces. Study instructions to ensure all the ejector pin runners are removed and not the airframe details. The wing lattice parts in STEP 3-4 / A are impressively detailed and moulded with mechanisms of landing gear and gun-bays. The design of the lattice structure and the gun installation allow the gun-bays to be opened with ease. No cutting of wing panel hatches is needed. Yes, there are extra plastic parts, but remember, you get what you pay for, and this type of engineering makes exposing gun details so easy. I will be opening all four-wing gun-bays on my model. Access panels for gun-bays are moulded as separate parts adding to the simplicity of viewing inner wing details. Attention is needed with the wing leading edge gun port insert pieces. Fit on upper surface of wing did have small gaps needing filling with Mr. Surfacer 1000. The air foil contour surfaces are perfect with shape and alignment, just small 0.015 gap at panel lines.

I will be articulating landing flaps and ailerons. Same comment can be made for mounting these control surfaces. The lattice inner airframe structure allows control surfaces to be mounted in various angles. The main wing top, bottom and the ailerons are beautifully moulded and fit very well. Each has nicely moulded tabs to attach them at any chosen angle. Use this to your advantage as posing the flaps and ailerons provides a sense of life to your model.

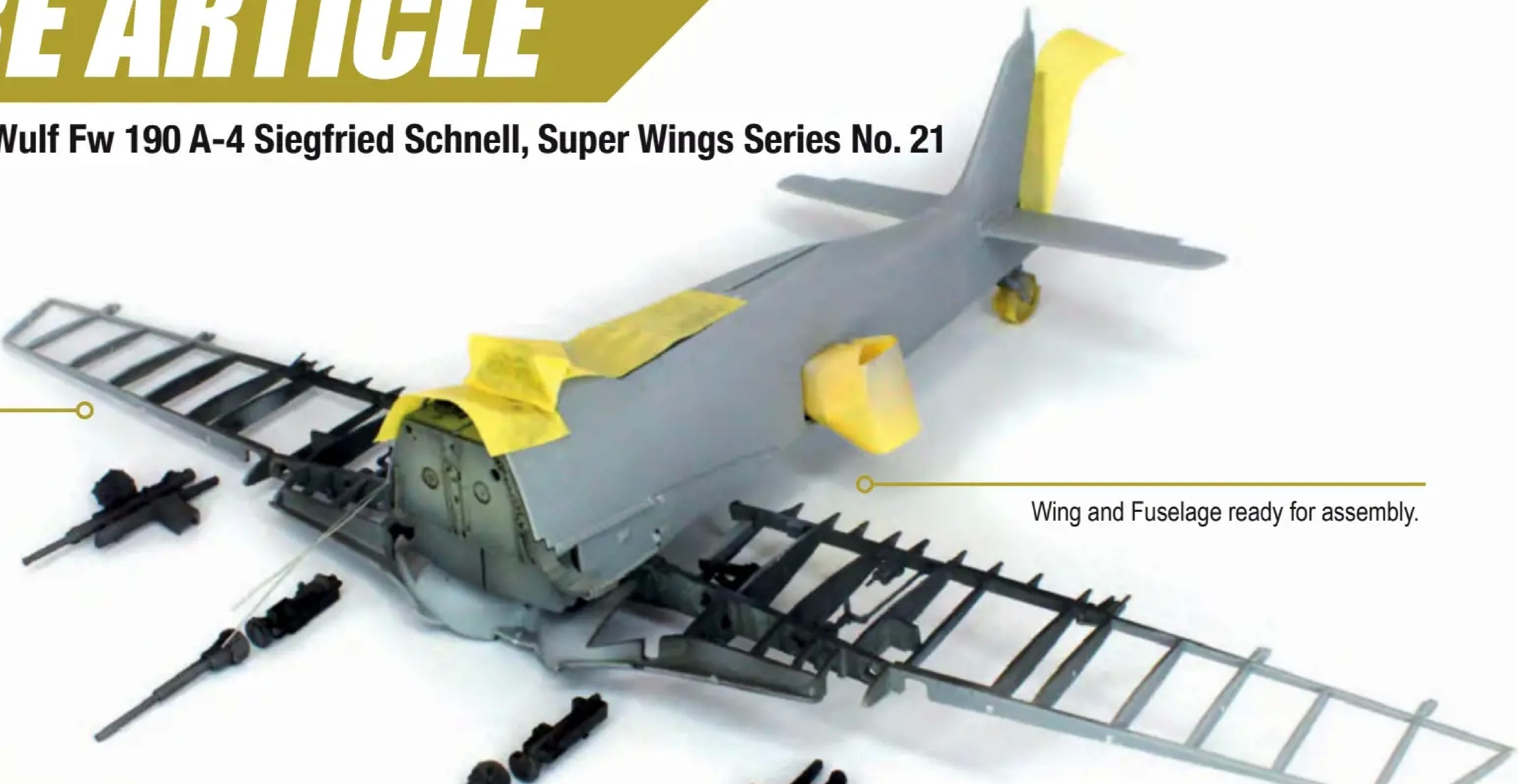
Fitting fuselage to wing is a little tricky but impressive how well the assemblies fit together. Follow instructions exactly and all will go smoothly. This is my third big "WOW" event on this kit, great engineering clearly defined on the highly accurate instructions. The fit of the wing fillets is also impressive. During test fitting, they almost snap into place with a perfectly accurate line to line fit. The details of the wing/fuselage intersection on the Fw-190 are highly accurate with the thin riveted aluminium strap detail modelled on top of wing/fuselage intersection and helps the superb fit of the parts. ▶



Wing internal structure during assembly.

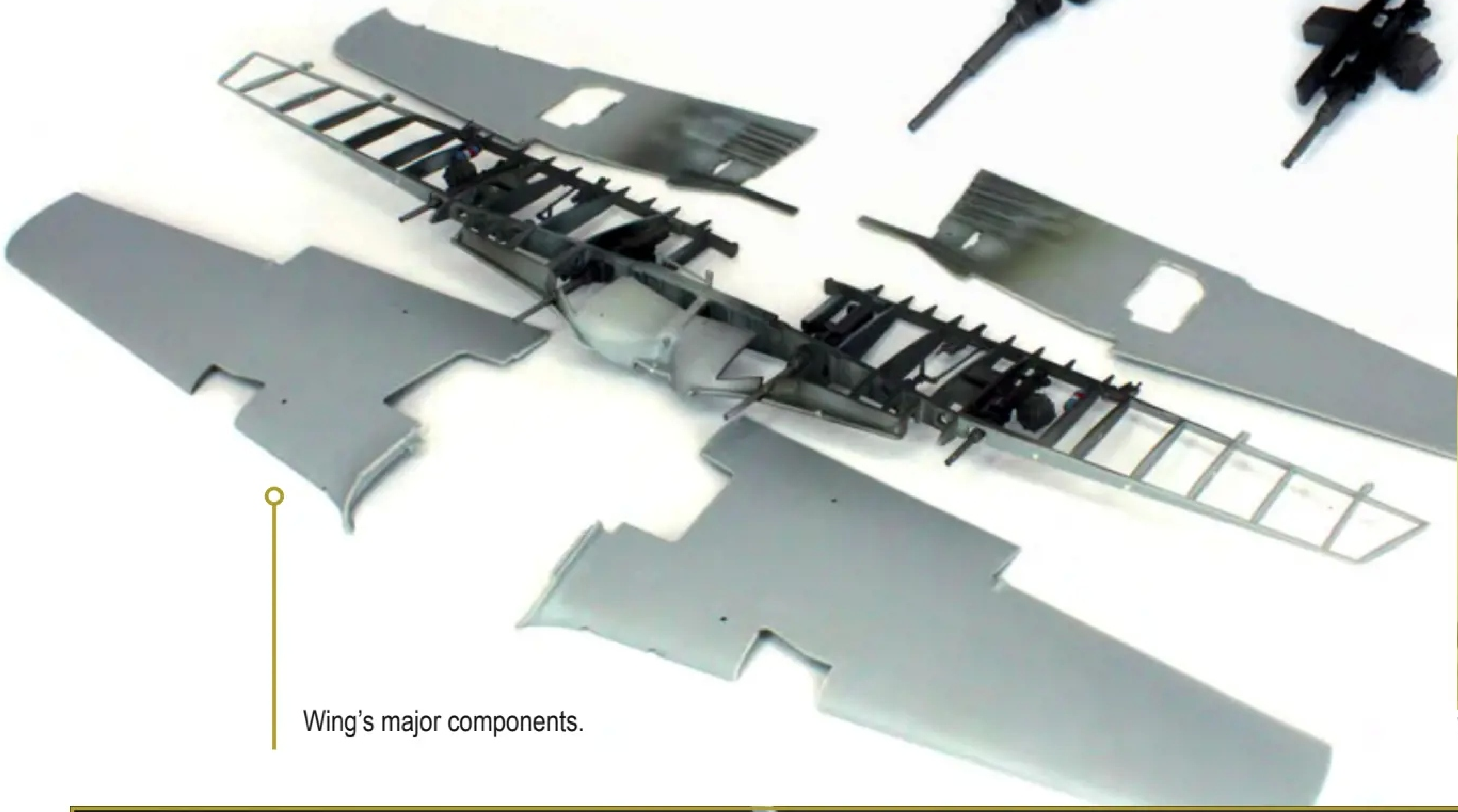
Tail assembly. Control surfaces will be positioned at various angles.

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 Siegfried Schnell, Super Wings Series No. 21

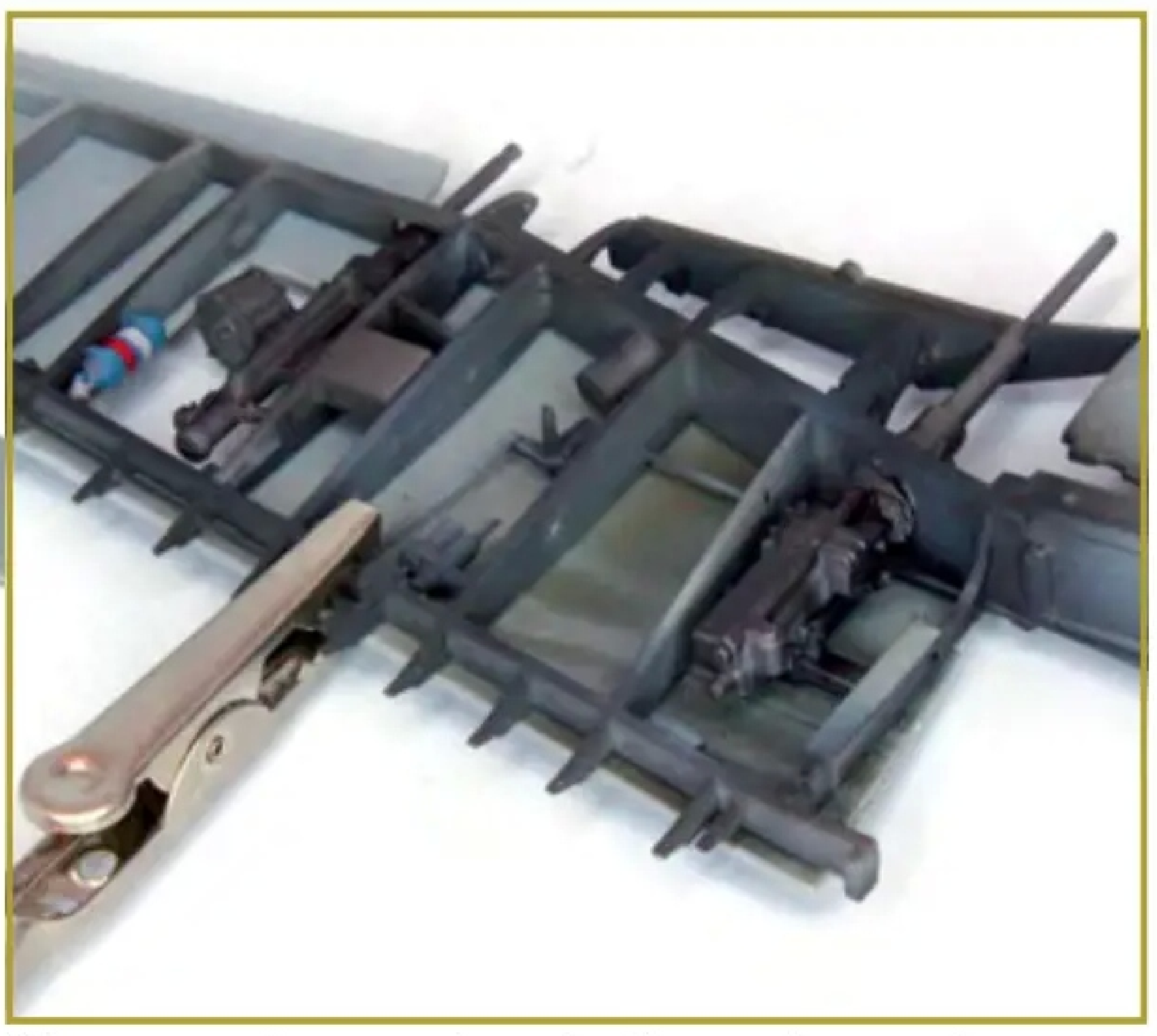


Wing structures painted with guns ready.

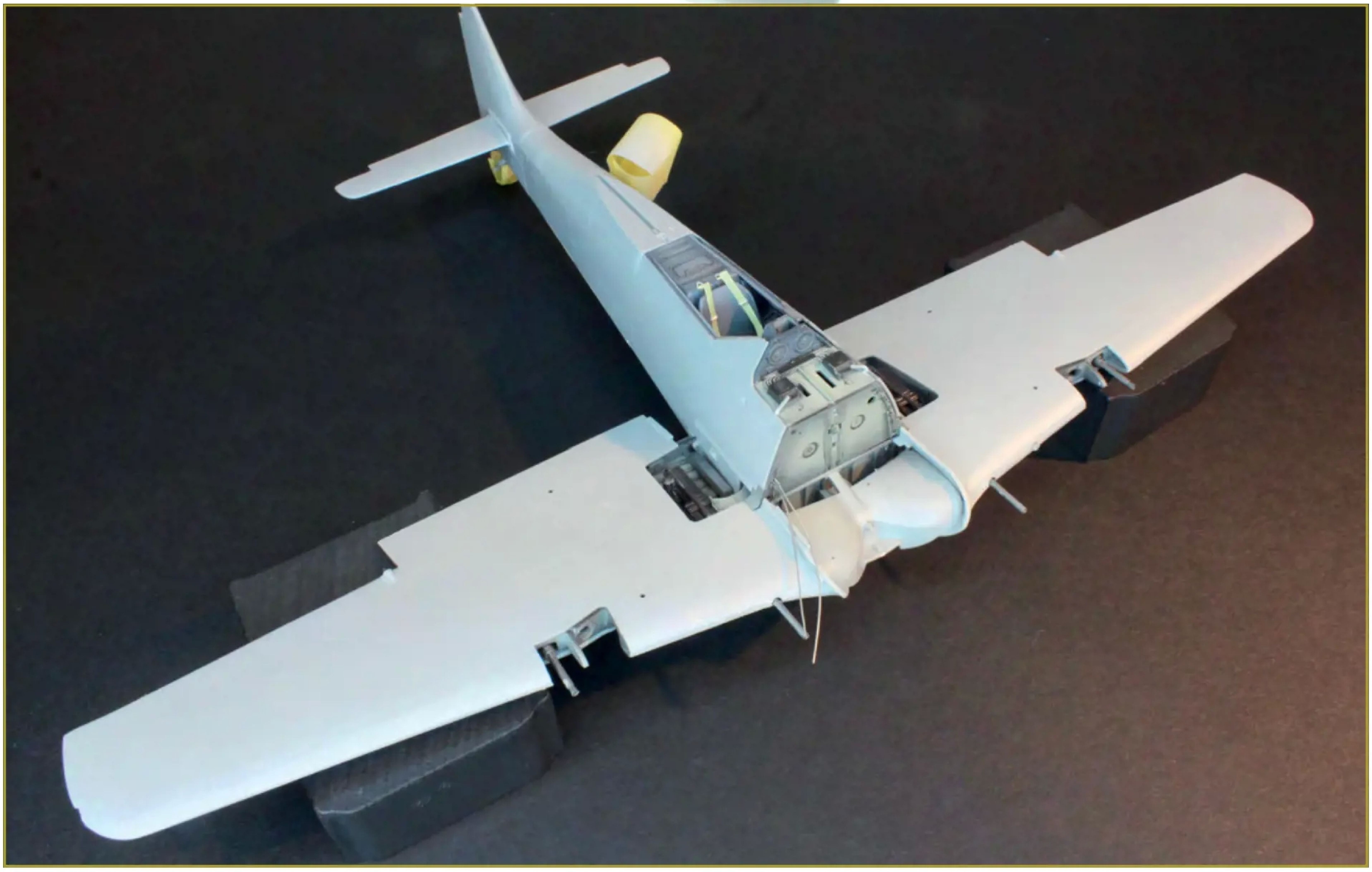
Wing and Fuselage ready for assembly.



Wing's major components.



Wing mounted guns and test fit of lower wing panel.

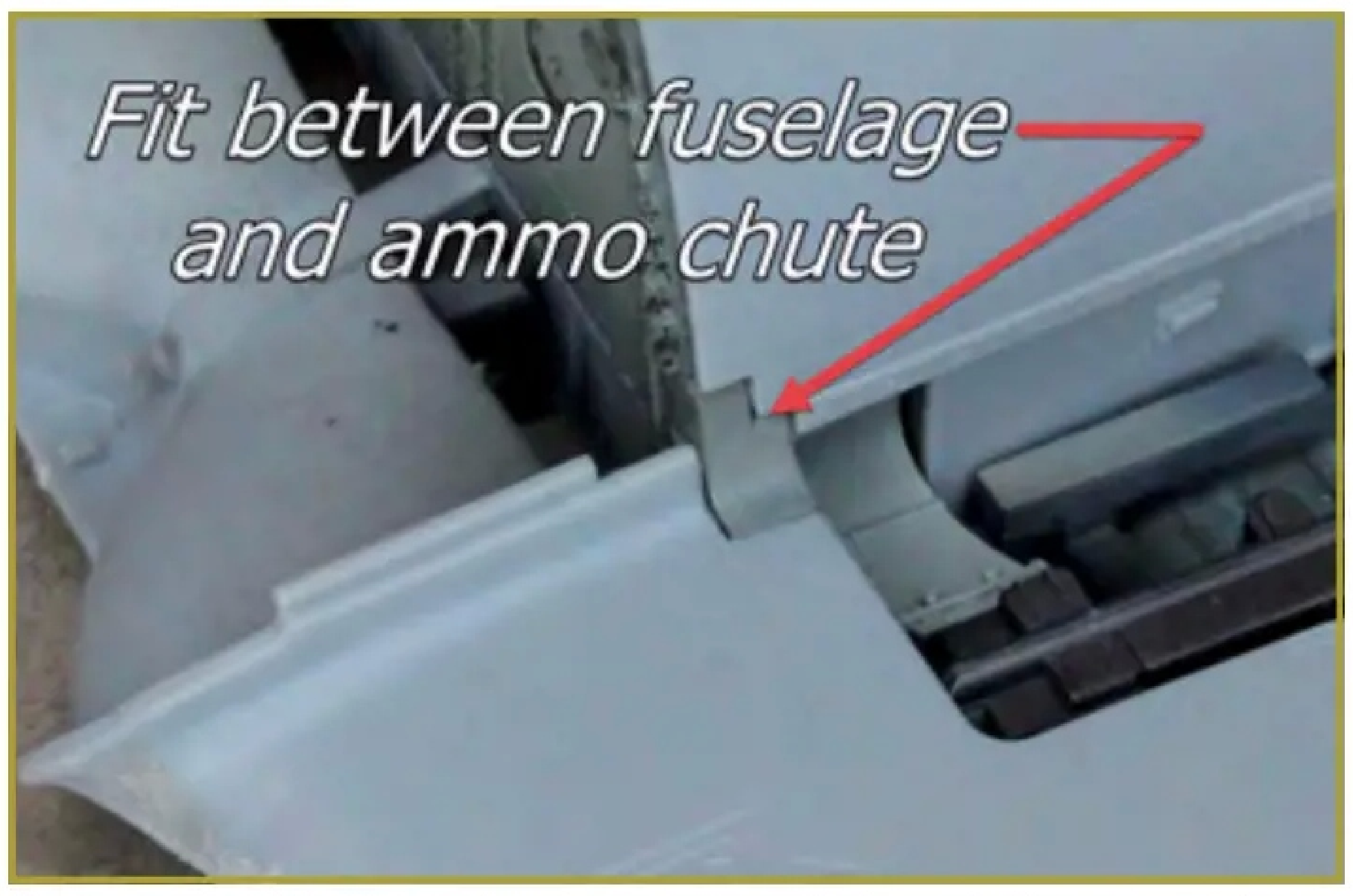


Completed wing.

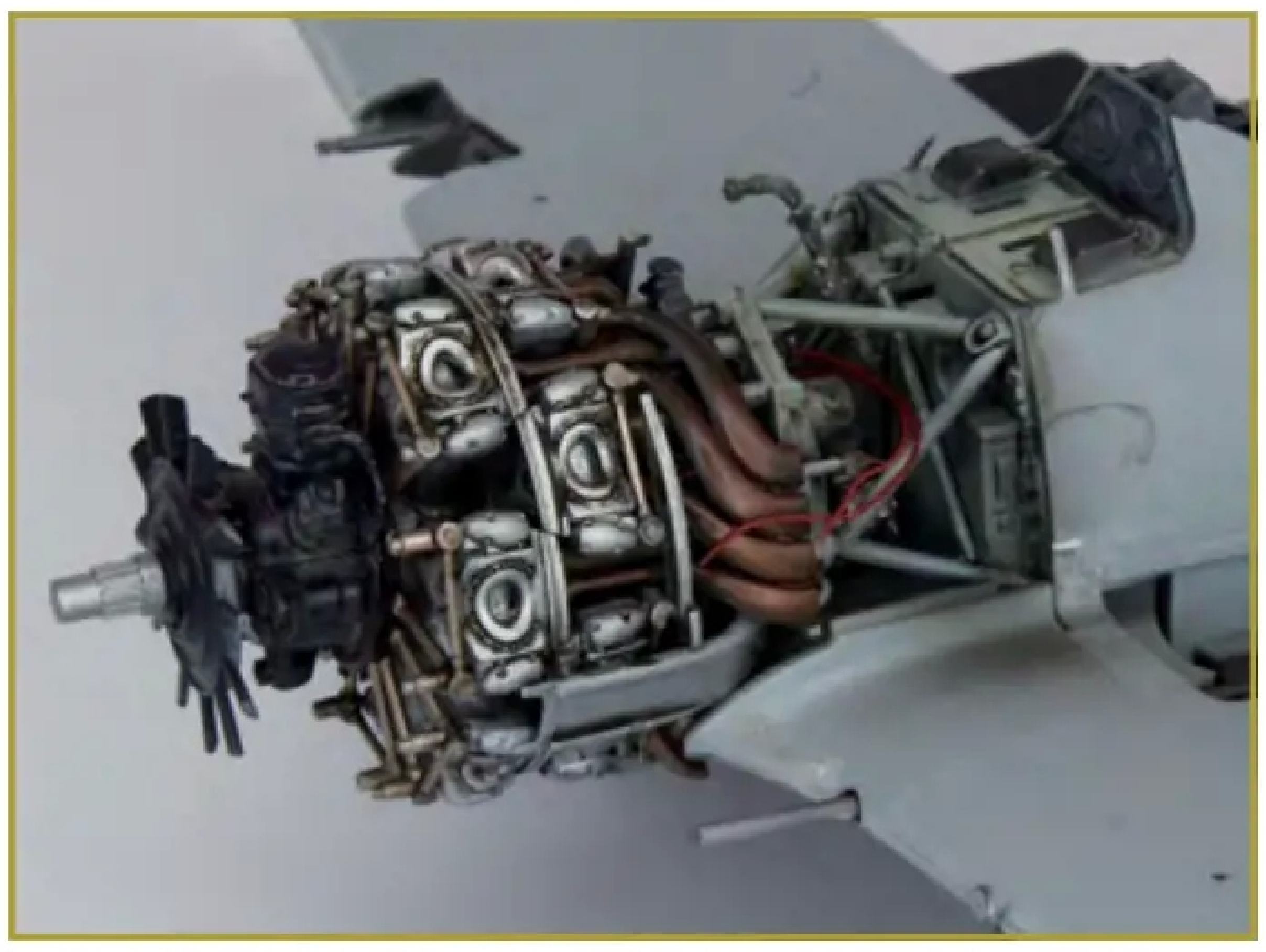
Testing assembly of fuselage to wing prior to fitting of wing fillet.

Wing fillet fit and alignment are excellent

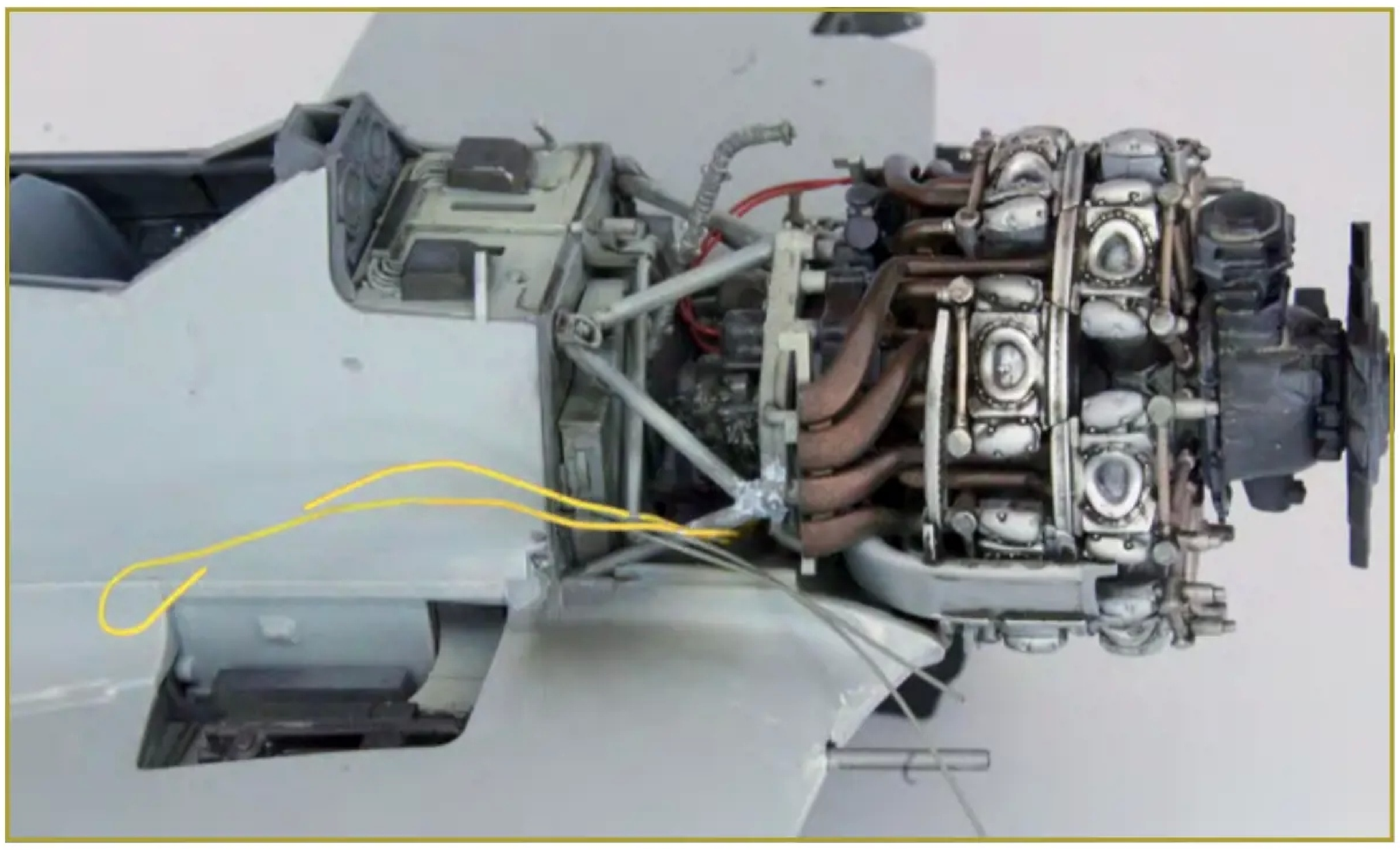
Wing to fuselage fillet, shown here in a testing fitting, is a separate part with superb fit and alignment. Parts almost snap into place!



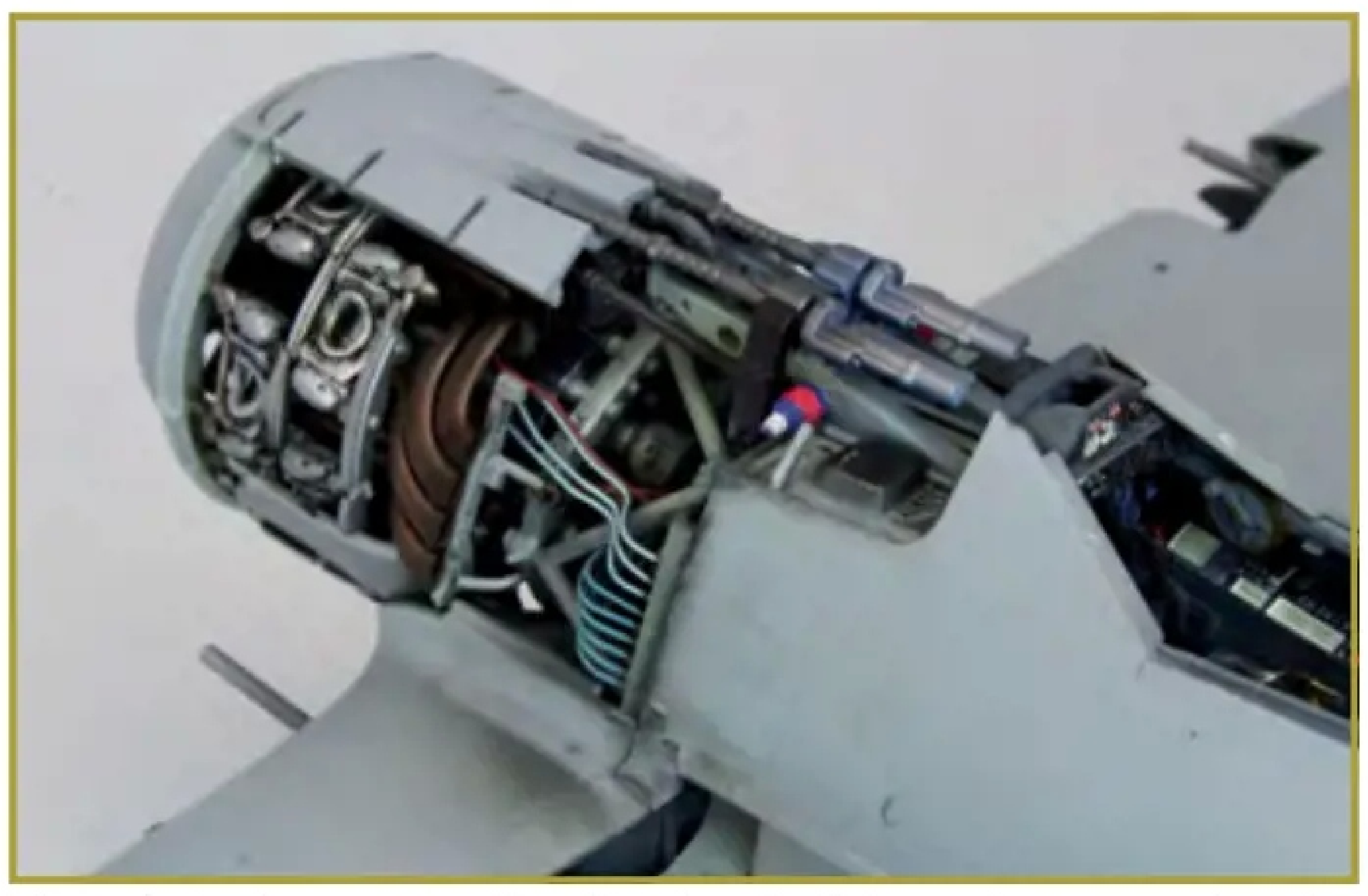
The complex fit between fuselage, ammo chute and wing assemble easily, the gap did need some filling with Mr. Surfacer 1000.



Oil tank ring, gun package and cowling top assembled in parallel with scratch-built wire harness mounted in place.



Gun package and engine frame assemblies fit together beautifully and adds exquisite detail straight out of the box. Moulded detail of the engine and compartment in front of the firewall really comes together visually. It appears so complicated as a total assembly, but seemed relatively simple looking with the subassemblies of airframe and engine.



View of wire harnesses placed and routed into engine compartment.

> ***"All the moulded detail of the engine and the compartment in front of the firewall really come together visually…"***

PRIMING AND PREPARATION FOR PAINTING

After priming, the entire model was polished with a 12,000 grit polishing cloth. Use lots of water when polishing the surfaces and allow to dry.

PRE-SHADING

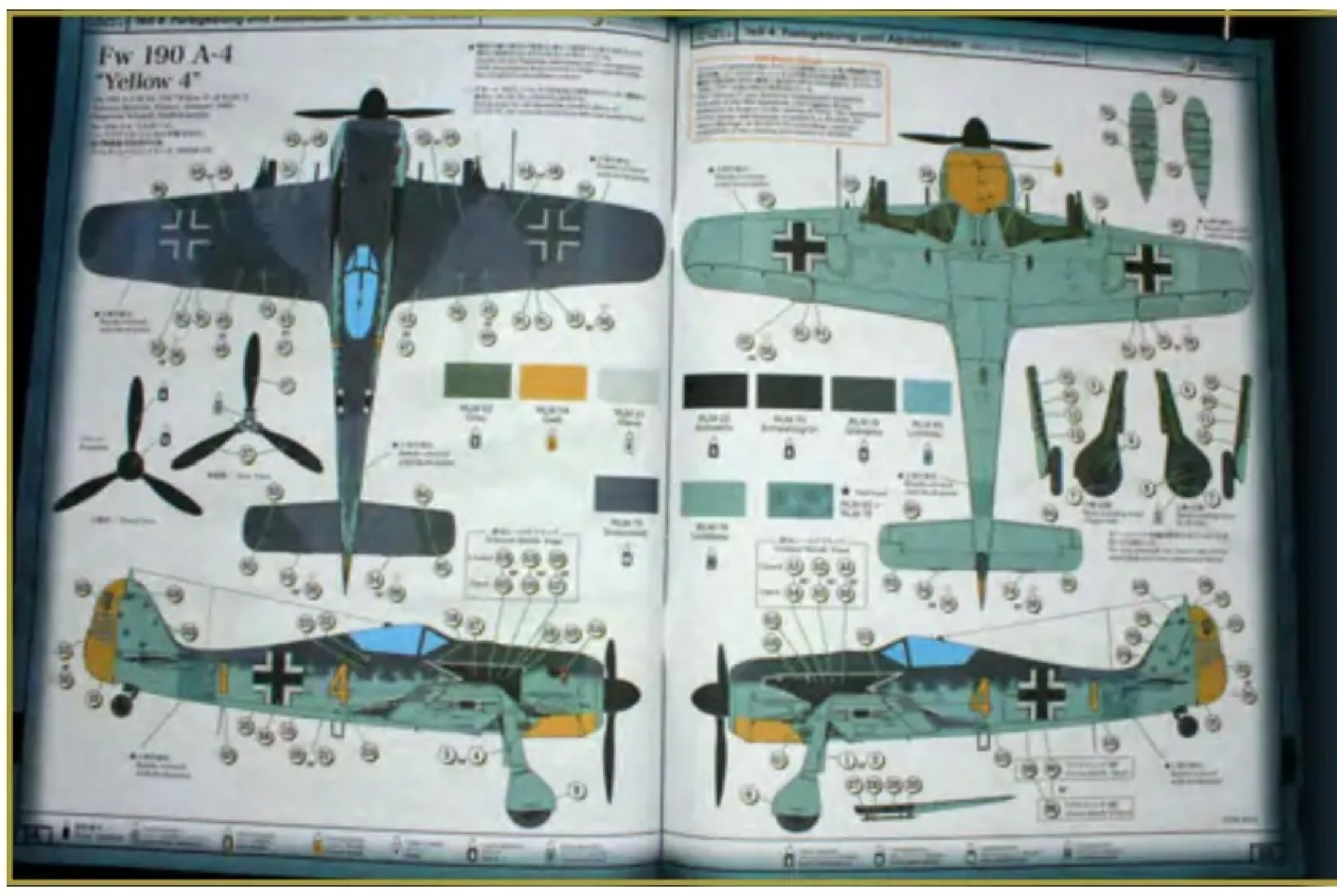
Panel lines were pre-shaded with Vallejo NATO Black: 71.119, all surfaces, upper and lower were pre-shaded over Tamiya primer.

PAINTING AND MARKINGS

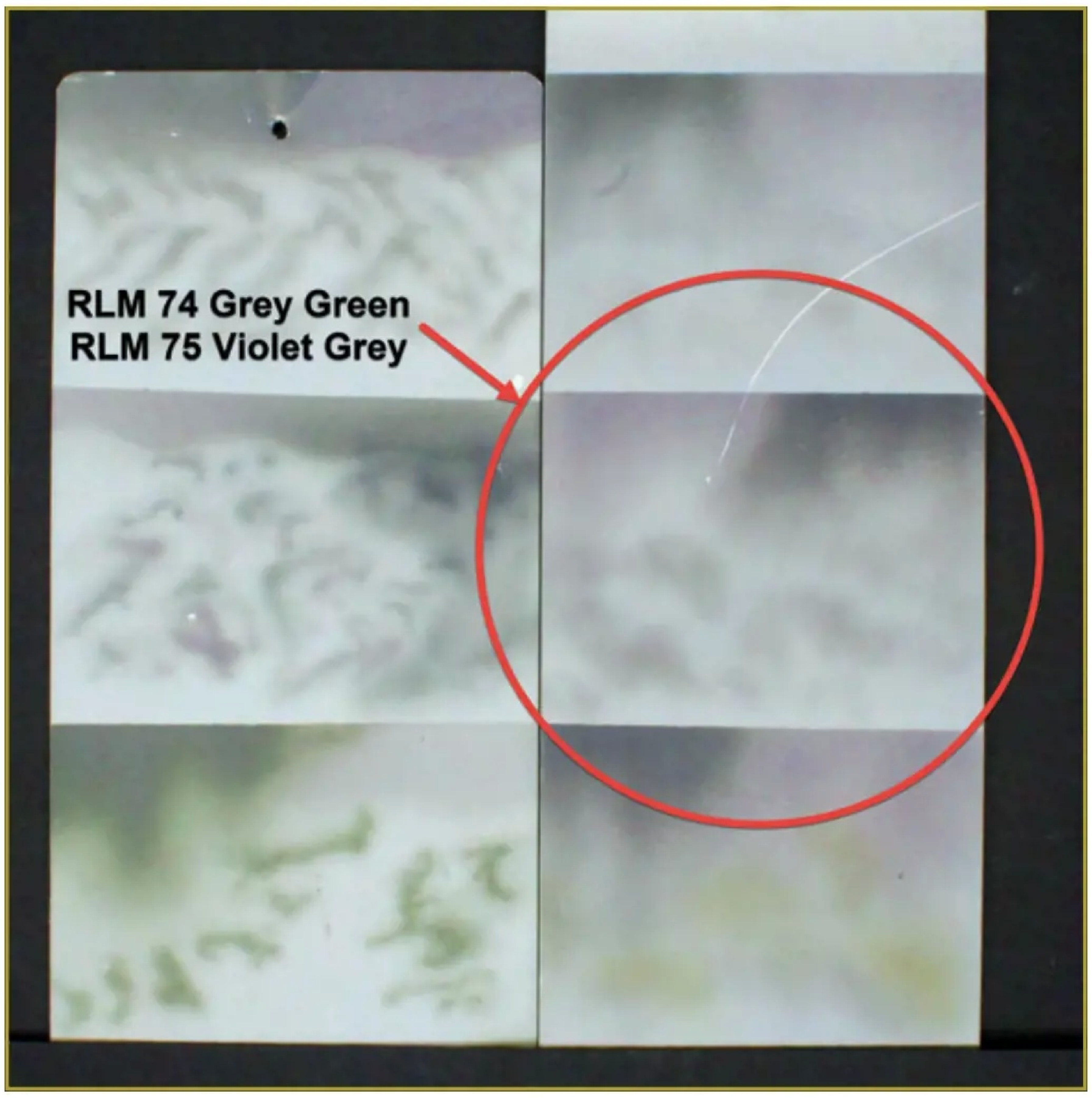
One of the first steps I complete at the start of any modelling project is choose paint colours, mix ratios and decide decals to be used. This works out very well and gets me through the anxiousness of wanting to get to paint phase of any project. Painting and finishing processes are my favourite part of any model. To me, that is where the magic happens, but the last thing any modeler wants is to rush to paint a beautifully constructed model without having thought out the painting methods and colours and messing things up. To me now, that is a recipe for disaster!

EXTERIOR PAINTING

Luftwaffe camouflage schemes are the most challenging for my airbrushing skills. Duplicating color, complicated patterns and mottles are a quest for me. Recreating the random and haphazard look to Luftwaffe fighters, especially late war aircraft is always exciting. I do realize I am trying to duplicate the work of factory technicians and field mechanics 80 years ago, loose with a paint spray gun. That is the reality of the situation, but when it is done right at scale, highly rewarding. A key to the look of an Fw-190 paint scheme is the overall softness of colour transitions, no stencilling or hard edges especially on fuselage and with mottles. The amorphic randomness provides a hazy and ghostly quality to the appearance, and ▶



Zoukei-Mura artwork used as master reference for painting and decaling. "Yellow 4" has many unique painted features. There are numerous areas that were covered over with fresh paint, most notably the tail. Tail and its mottles were different RLM colours and style. Perhaps due to refurbishment of the plane at the factory where subassemblies from various aircraft were bolted together like the Frankenstein monster.



Paint sample boards-Colours were sampled along with mottle style long before model was built. Colours and mottle style circled in red were duplicated on my model. The faint and ghostly application of mottles was intentional .

74 Gray-Green
74 Graugrün
75 Gray-Violet
75 Grauviolett
76 Light Blue
76 Lichtblau

Exterior RLM Colour chips from “The official Monogram Painting Guide to German Aircraft 1935-1945”.

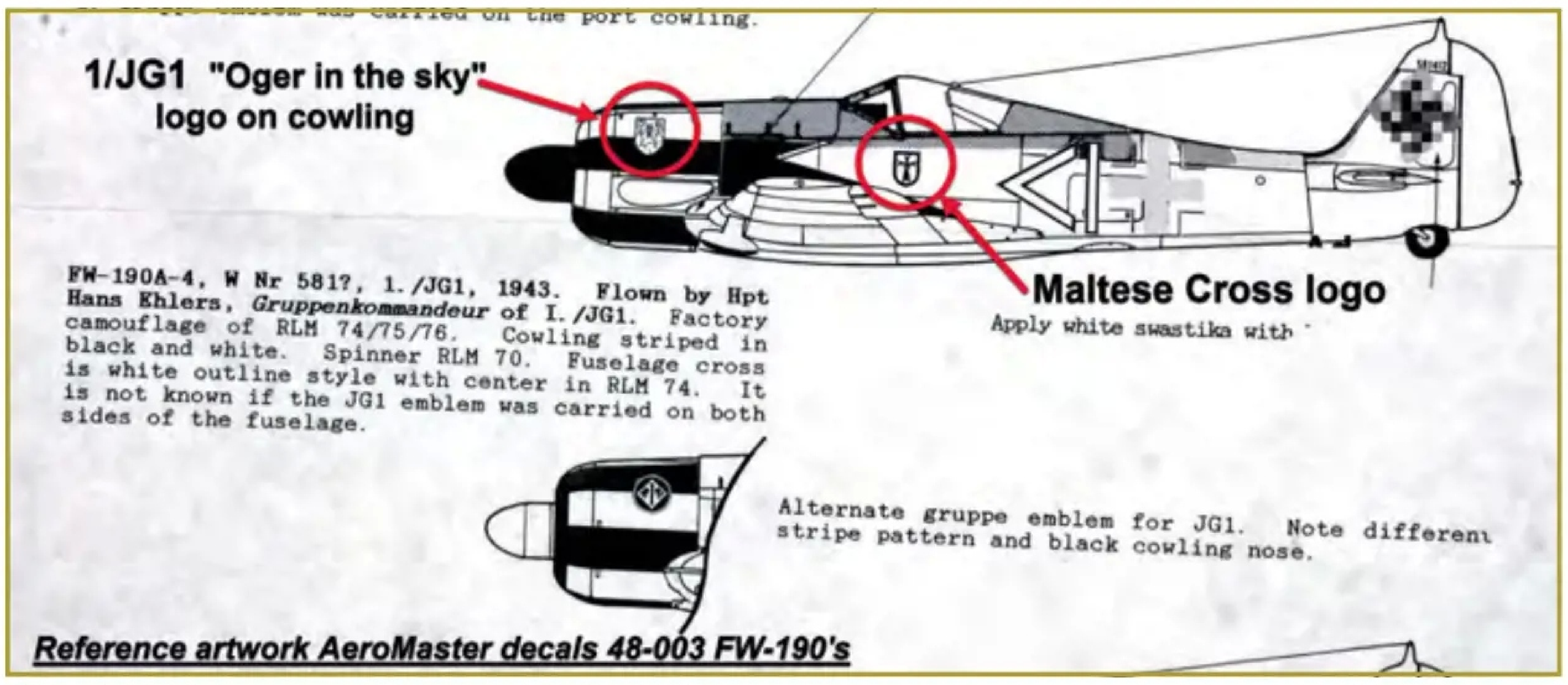
◀ certainly not a stencilled look. Duplicating this in 1:32 scale without paint splatters or a heavy looking paint does require skill and practice.

Master reference for camouflage and markings for Luftwaffe aircraft are the book, “The official Monogram Painting Guide to German Aircraft 1935-1945” by Kenneth A. Merrick & Thomas Hitchcock. Simply the best reference I have come across and used as a master source for my fascination with Luftwaffe paint schemes. It details everything a modeler needs for reference on colours and markings. It details the different green color variations that existed in the Luftwaffe directives during the second world war.

As I noted earlier, I craft my paint mixtures, painted samples and documented these mixtures first. I also developed the style and weight of the mottles on the side of the aircraft. My paint sample boards represent these different mottle styles that were duplicated on the finished model. So, when I am ready to go to paint phase of this project, I knew the exact colours used and how to achieve the style of mottles desired. However, colours used for the camouflage of this model were straight from the bottle of Testors Model Masters Acrylic Paints- RLM74 Dark Green #4784, RLM75 Violet Grey #4785.

I always paint exterior colours lightest to dark. Firstly, RLM76 undersurfaces, then upper surfaces RLM75 and finishing with RLM 74. I also paint the aircraft from centre-line outward.

Painting of the RLM 75 Violet Grey and RLM 74 Grey Green displays one key attribute to Fw190 A-4 production. Visually, this is how the two colours were painted high upon the spine of the aircraft. The RLM 74/75/76 paint scheme is the definitive mid-war Luftwaffe camouflage scheme.



was carried on the port cowling.

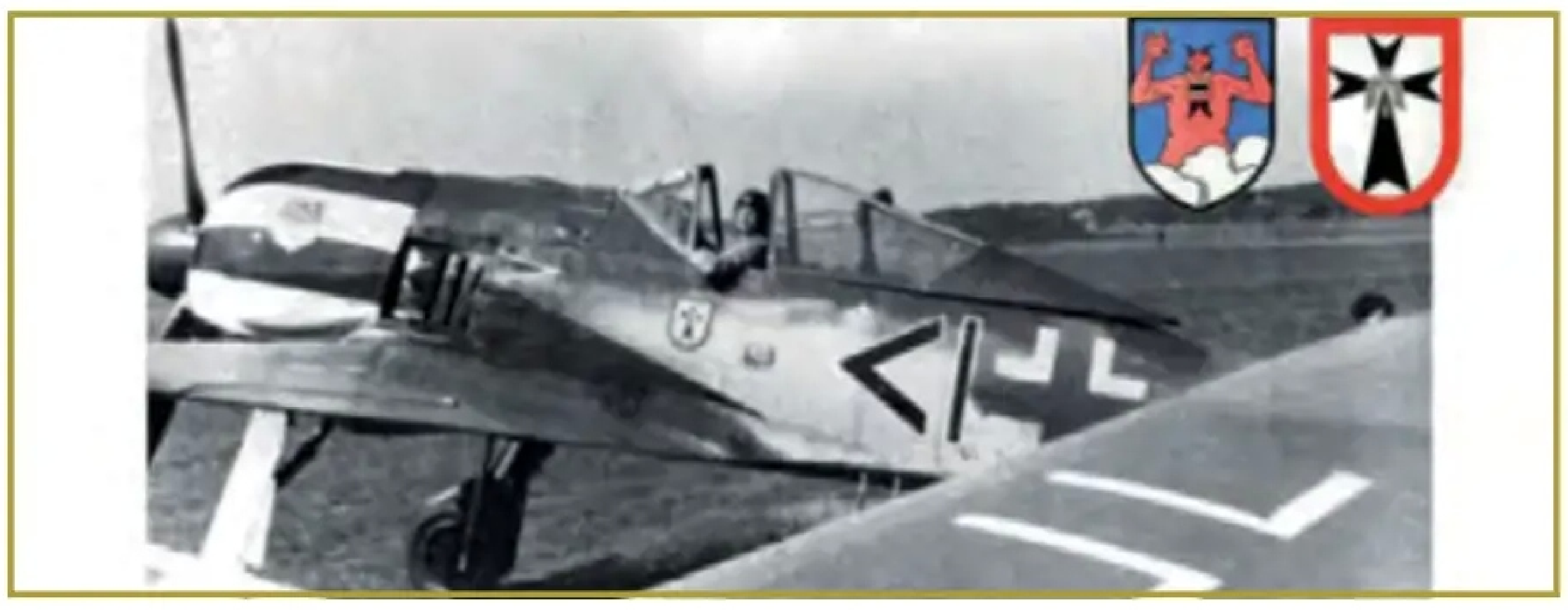
FW-190A-4, W Nr 581?, 1./JG1, 1943. Flown by Hpt Hans Ehlers, *Gruppenkommandeur* of I./JG1. Factory camouflage of RLM 74/75/76. Cowling striped in black and white. Spinner RLM 70. Fuselage cross is white outline style with center in RLM 74. It is not known if the JG1 emblem was carried on both sides of the fuselage.

Apply white swastika with

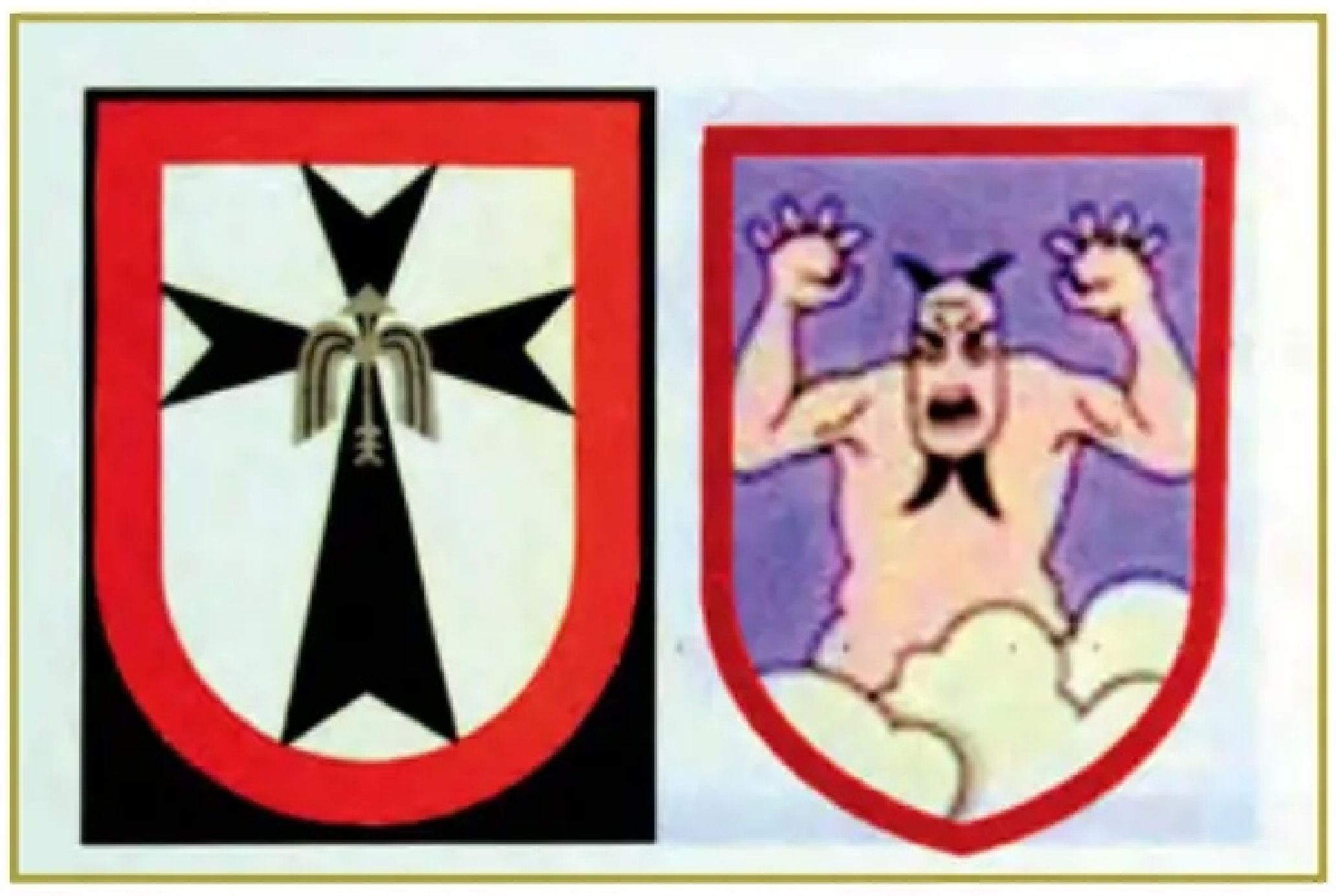
Alternate gruppe emblem for JG1. Note different stripe pattern and black cowling nose.

Reference artwork AeroMaster decals 48-003 FW-190's

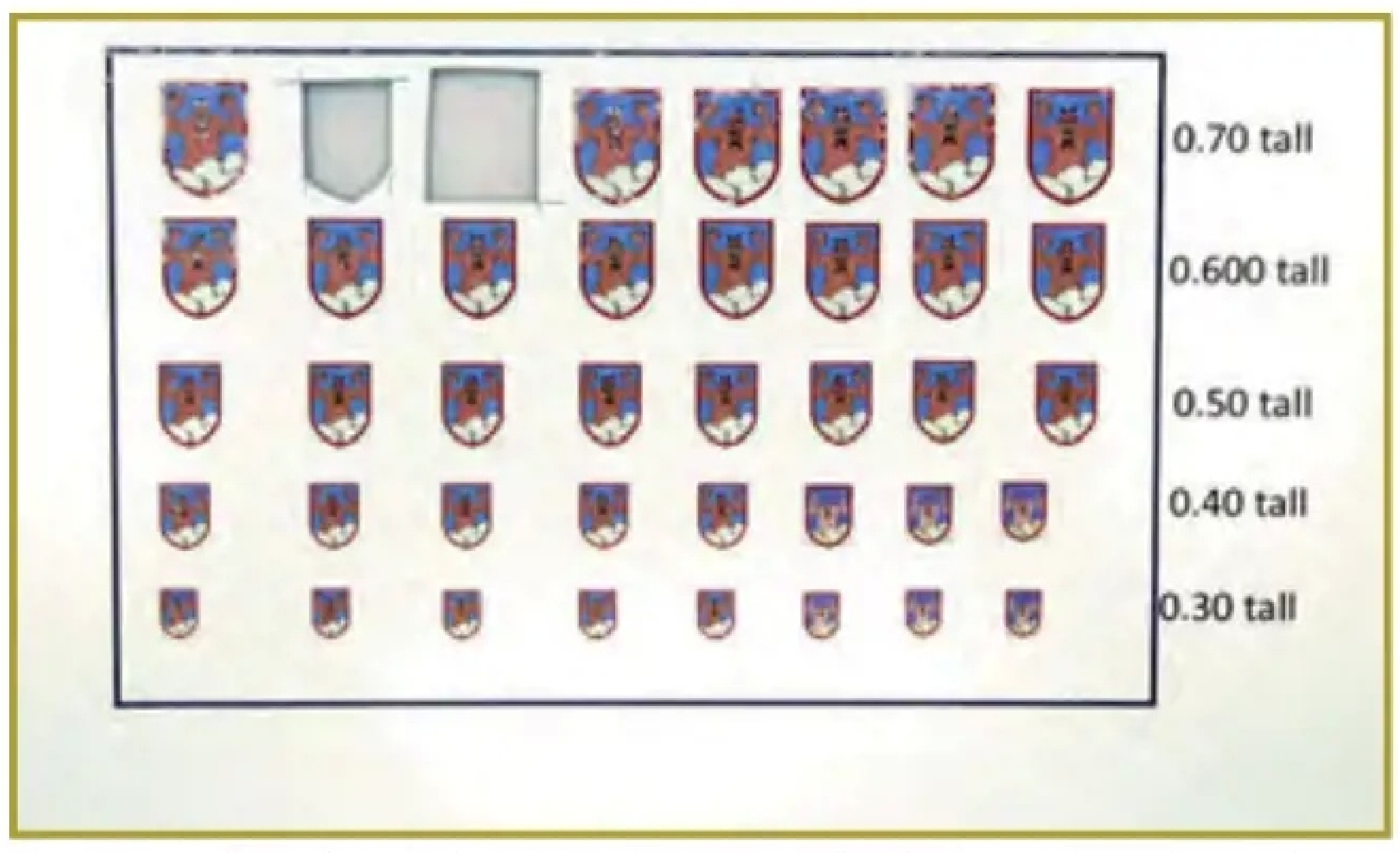
Paint scheme for “Chevron Bar” applied to my 1:32 Z-M Fw-190 A-4. The black and white striped cowling and 1/JG1 “Ogre in the Sky” logo make for a visually appealing camouflage scheme. This reference artwork from AeroMaster Decals 48-003 Luftwaffe Fw190’s.



Photograph of “Chevron Bar” FW190 A-4. Note original fuselage insignia appears to be overpainted with possibly RLM74 or RLM75 with a white outline insignia painted over the top. Upper wing insignia appears to be a white outline version also.



1/JG1 “Ogre in the Sky” logo and the Maltese cross: The “Ogre” decal was custom printed by me. The Maltese Cross was from Kits World War Birds decals KW-17248-3.



Custom printed decal sheet with “Ogre in the sky” logo in various sizes. Sheet was printed in a high-quality laser printer on Item 125 Laser Decal Paper- Experts Choice Decal (LASER)- Bare-Metal Foil Co.

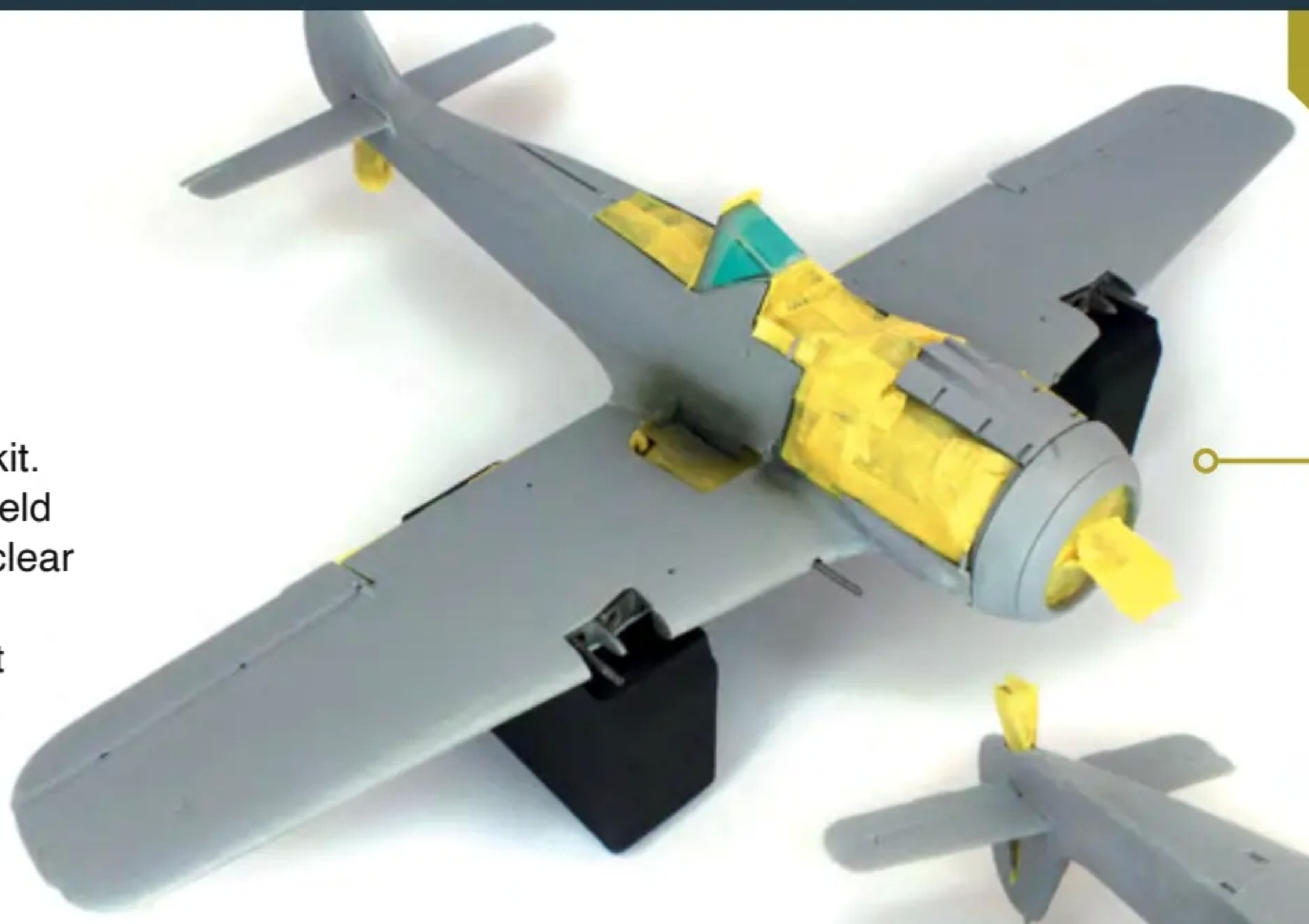
CANOPY

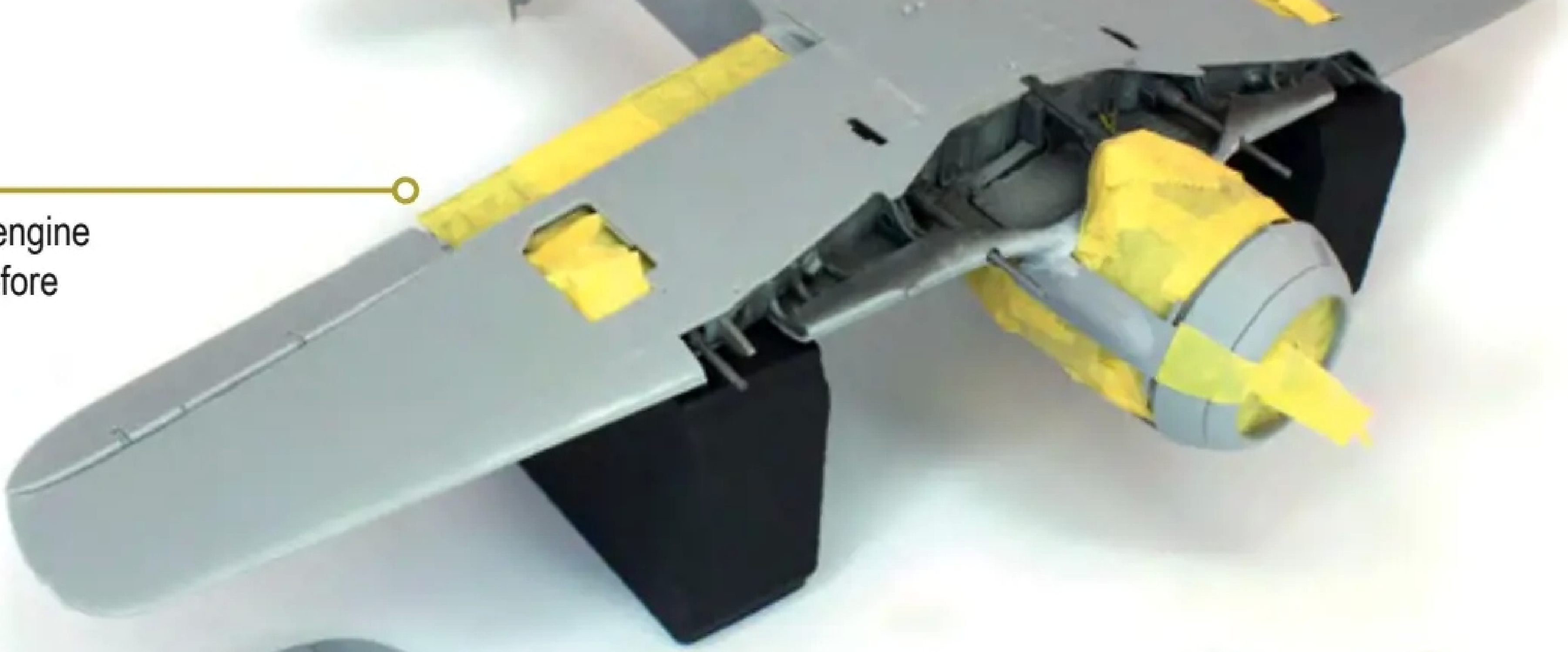
Canopy masks were included with the kit. The pieces for the bullet proof head shield assemble nicely and were attached to clear parts using Elmers white glue. Fw 190 canopies had a fabric flexible hinge just above the pilots forehead. This detail is moulded into the clear canopy part.

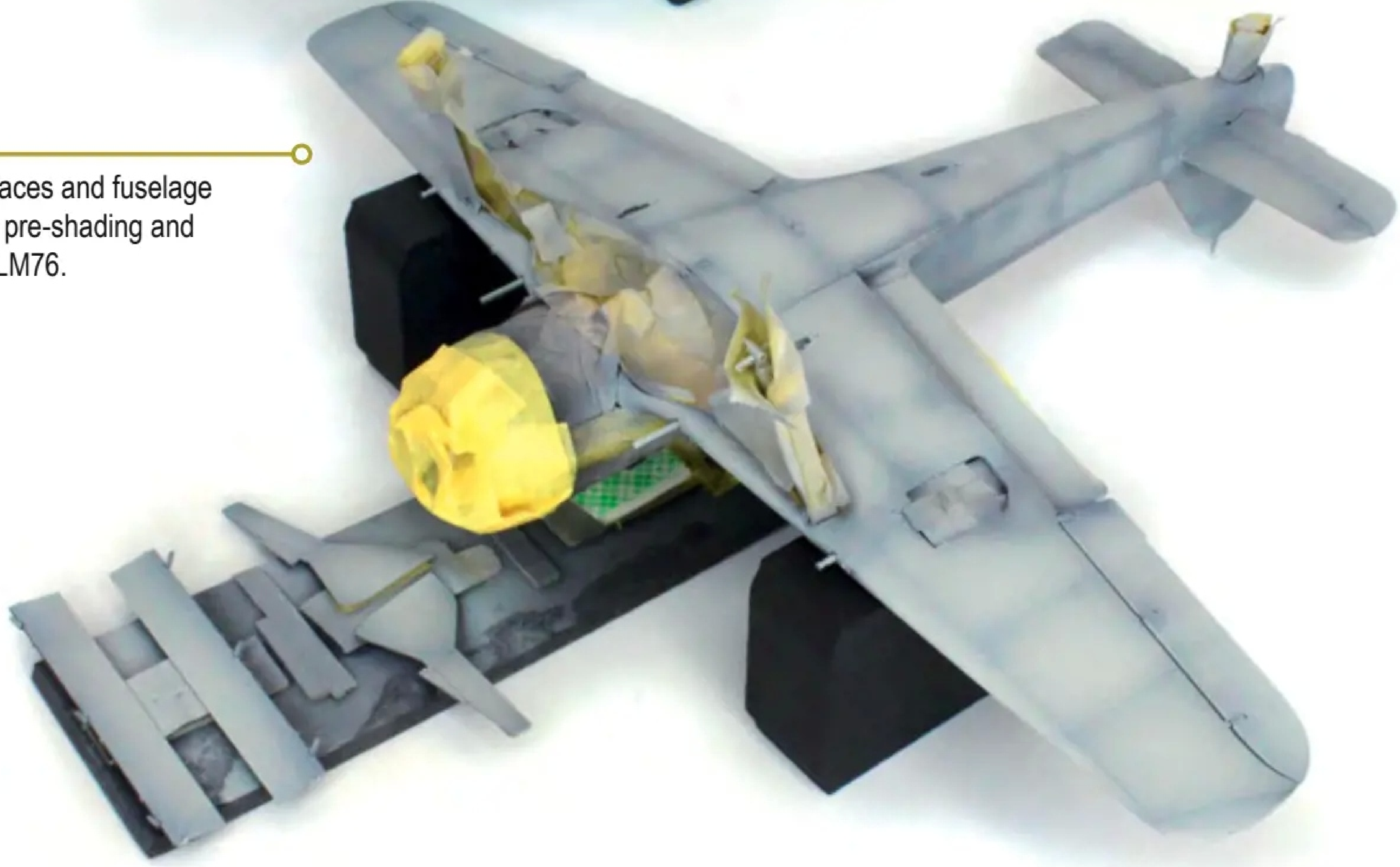
DECALS

The Z-M kit decals and instructions well define and illustrate two different aircraft. One, "Yellow 4" of JG 2 flown in January 1943 and the second "Chevron Double Bar" of Stab I./JG 54 "Green Hearts" in winter camouflage during Russian campaign February 1943. The decals themselves are highest quality, colourful, thin, durable and sink into the recessed panel lines and rivets well. For my model, it portrays Fw190 A-4 of 1/JG 1 in early 1943. The "Maltese Cross" decal is from a Kits World decal sheet- Luftwaffe Fighter Units Emblems KW17248-3. I was able to scan the group logo, the "Oger in the sky" from artwork and print my own decal sheet. This kit provided decal sheet is high quality along with the Kits World decals. The decal sheet I created worked very well also. Artwork was created using SNAG-IT image capture software, master art was organized on MS PowerPoint, scaled in multiple sizes for future use. PowerPoint slide was printed on Laser Decal Paper on high end laser printer. Laser decal paper is standard letter size, so it was simply inserted into the laser printer and output the decal. Much easier than I expected and the first time ever doing this.

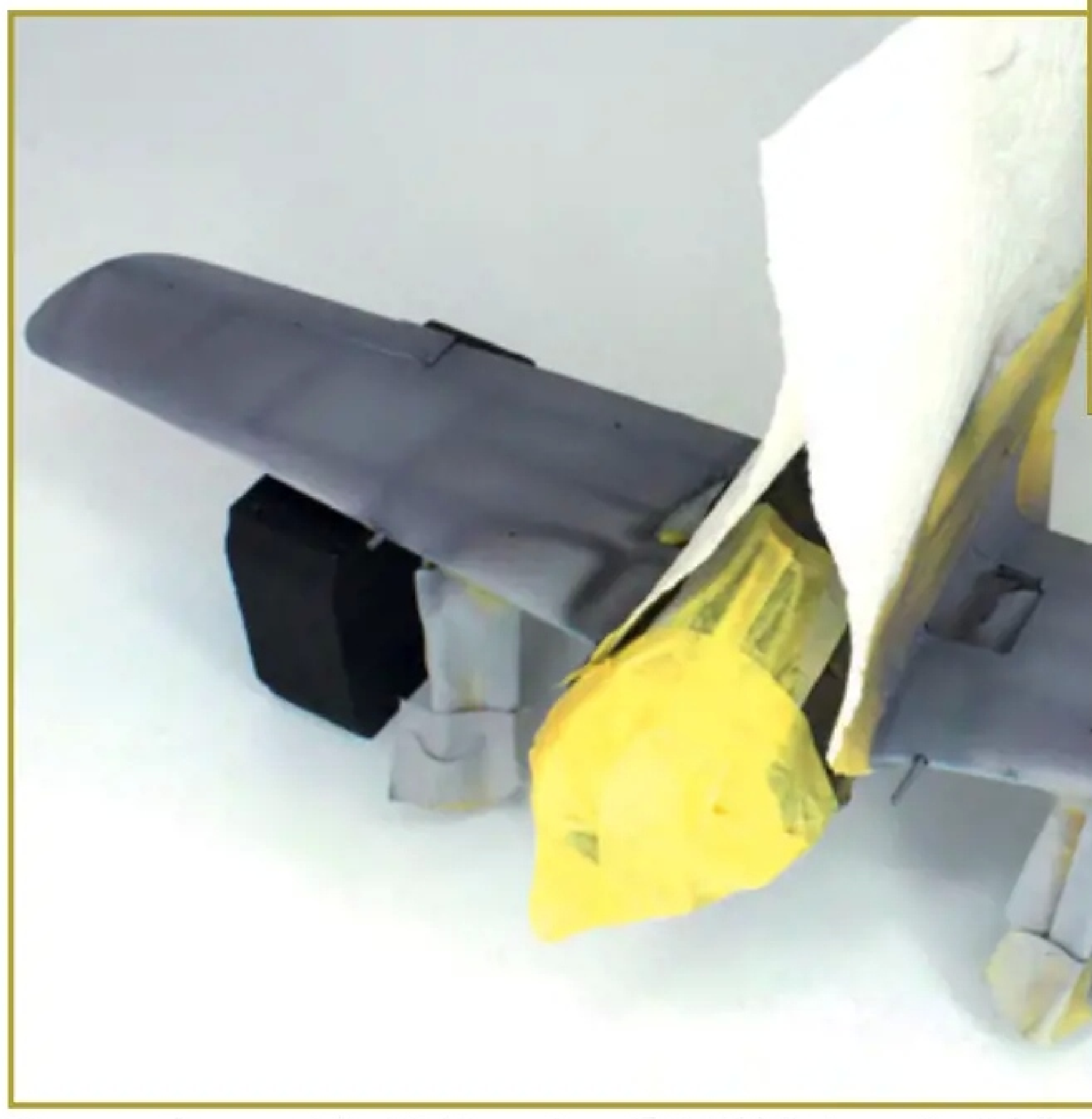
The particular aircraft modelled for this article has some very unique national markings on the top wings and the fuselage. Fuselage insignia appear to have the centre black bands overpainted with RLM74 or RLM75, or possibly the whole original insignia overpainted, then a white outline style insignia painted over top. To simulate this, I painted RLM75 in the areas under the insignia on both sides of the fuselage and applied white outline style decals. The wing top national insignia appear to be the late war white outline version based on photographs. ▶


Cowling parts and windscreen installed before primer paint applied.


Masking of underside engine and gun-bay details before primer paint applied.

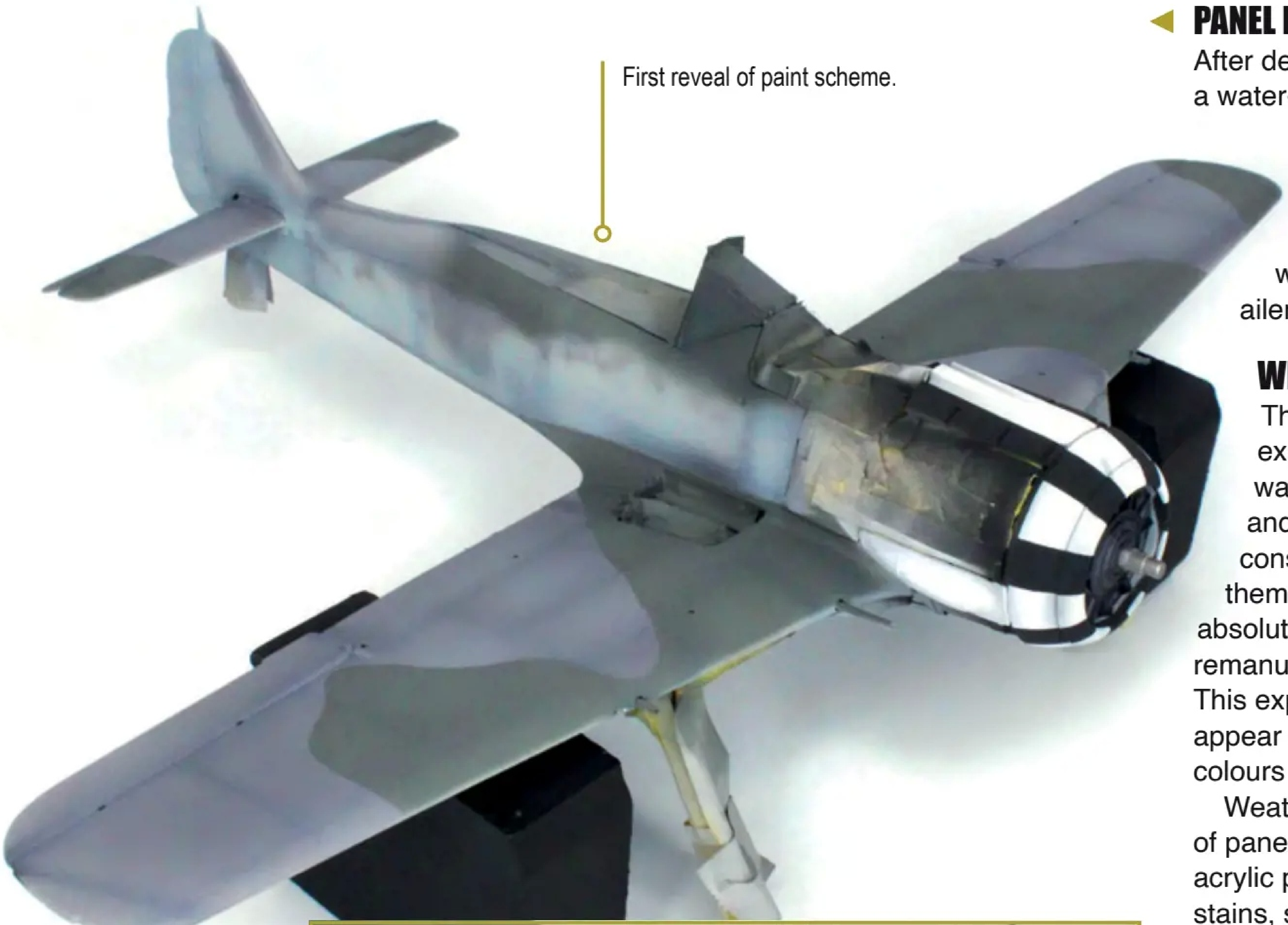

Lower surfaces and fuselage sides after pre-shading and painting RLM76.

Fuselage masked and ready for painting RLM75 and RLM74 in that order. I paint colours light to dark, working from centreline outward.


Upper surfaces painted lighter colour, RLM 75 first, masked, followed by painting RLM74 grey green.

RLM74 Grey Green applied to upper surfaces.

Zoukei-Mura 1:32 Focke-Wulf Fw 190 A-4 Siegfried Schnell, Super Wings Series No. 21



First reveal of paint scheme.

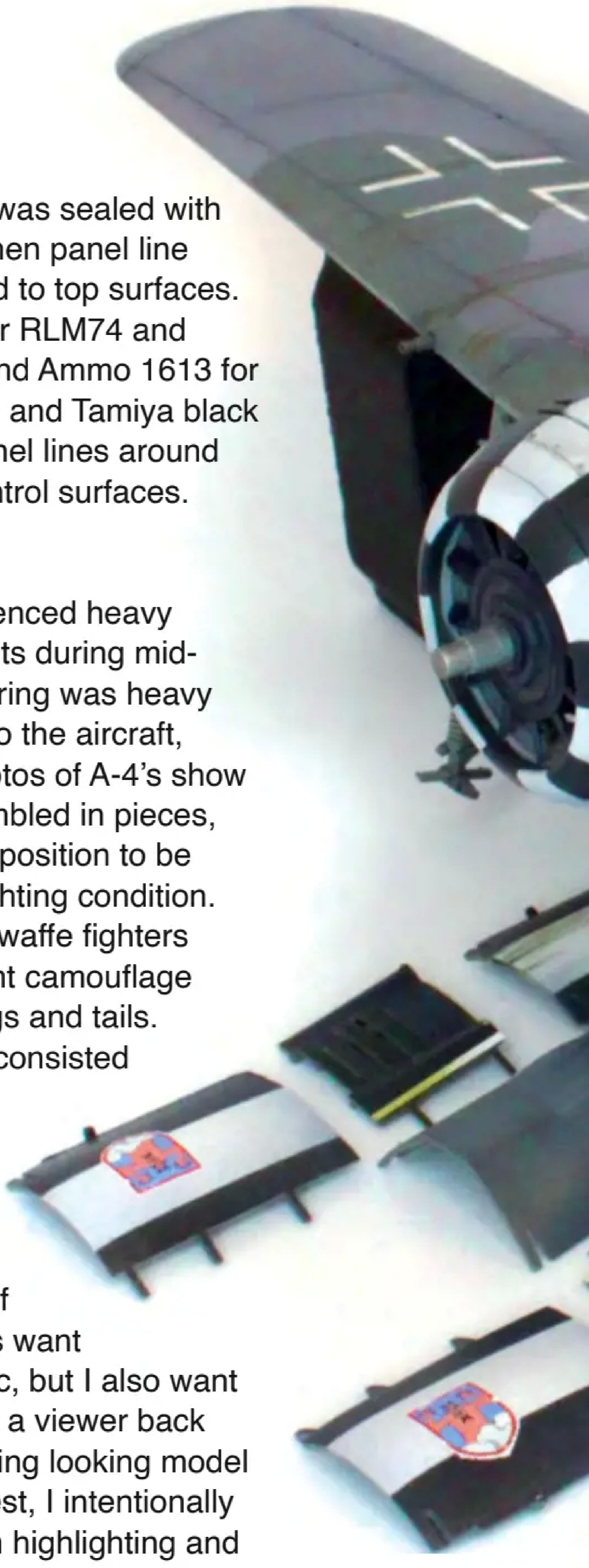
PANEL LINE WASH

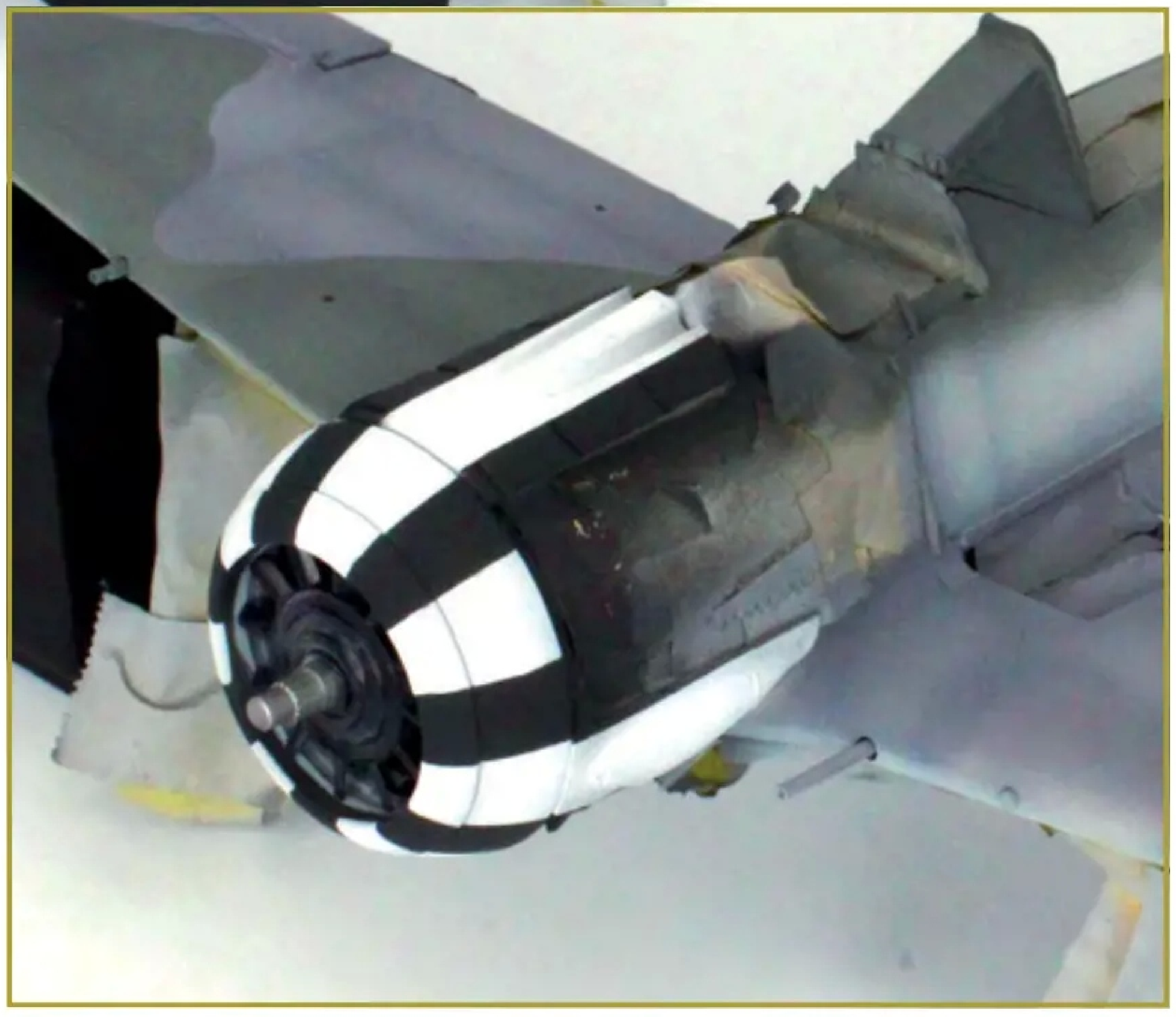
After decaling, entire model was sealed with a water-based gloss coat. Then panel line washes were applied to top surfaces. Mig Ammo 1611 for RLM74 and RLM75 surfaces and Ammo 1613 for RLM 76 were used, and Tamiya black was used on deep panel lines around ailerons and elevator control surfaces.

WEATHERING

This Fw190 A-4 experienced heavy exposure to the elements during mid-war period. The weathering was heavy and damage extensive to the aircraft, consequently a lot of photos of A-4's show them in factories disassembled in pieces, absolutely beaten up, but in position to be remanufactured back into fighting condition. This explains why some Luftwaffe fighters appear with distinctly different camouflage colours and patterns on wings and tails.

Weathering on my model consisted of panel line wash, oil paint, acrylic paint exhaust stains, streaking of grime, dirt and rain marks. Each layer of elements was preserved with a layer of aqueous gloss coat. I always want my models to appear realistic, but I also want to add some interest to draw a viewer back for a 2nd and 3rd look. A boring looking model is easy to build, to add interest, I intentionally interject multiple colours with highlighting and weathering. Yes, I want to be accurate for the aircraft, but I intentionally push these visual elements. That is part of the learning and enjoyment of the hobby. I also introduced blue, greenish/brown and a red/brown to the bottom of the fuselage to help add interest. The more colours the better. Concepts not new to master modelers, but my own spin on them. The exhaust stains are smoky looking and subtle, but comprised of 4 colours, brownish black, blue, rust orange and light grey. Each colour is on its own layer and protected with a clear gloss coat. This accomplishes two things, one, it preserves your work to that point and secondly the transparent layers create an actual thickness. This technique of applying thin transparent layers is the same developed by the Renaissance masters using oil paints. I am using the same techniques, but just on a 32 scale model. The technique pays visual dividends as I am rendering the surface of a 3-dimensional model the same way as I would a 2-dimensional illustration. Overall, there are 7-9 different transparent layers of paint, highlighting colours, decals, weathering, streaking and exhaust stains on this Fw190 A-4 model. ►





Cowling stripes look like graphics on a medieval flag.

Decaled and ready for weathering.

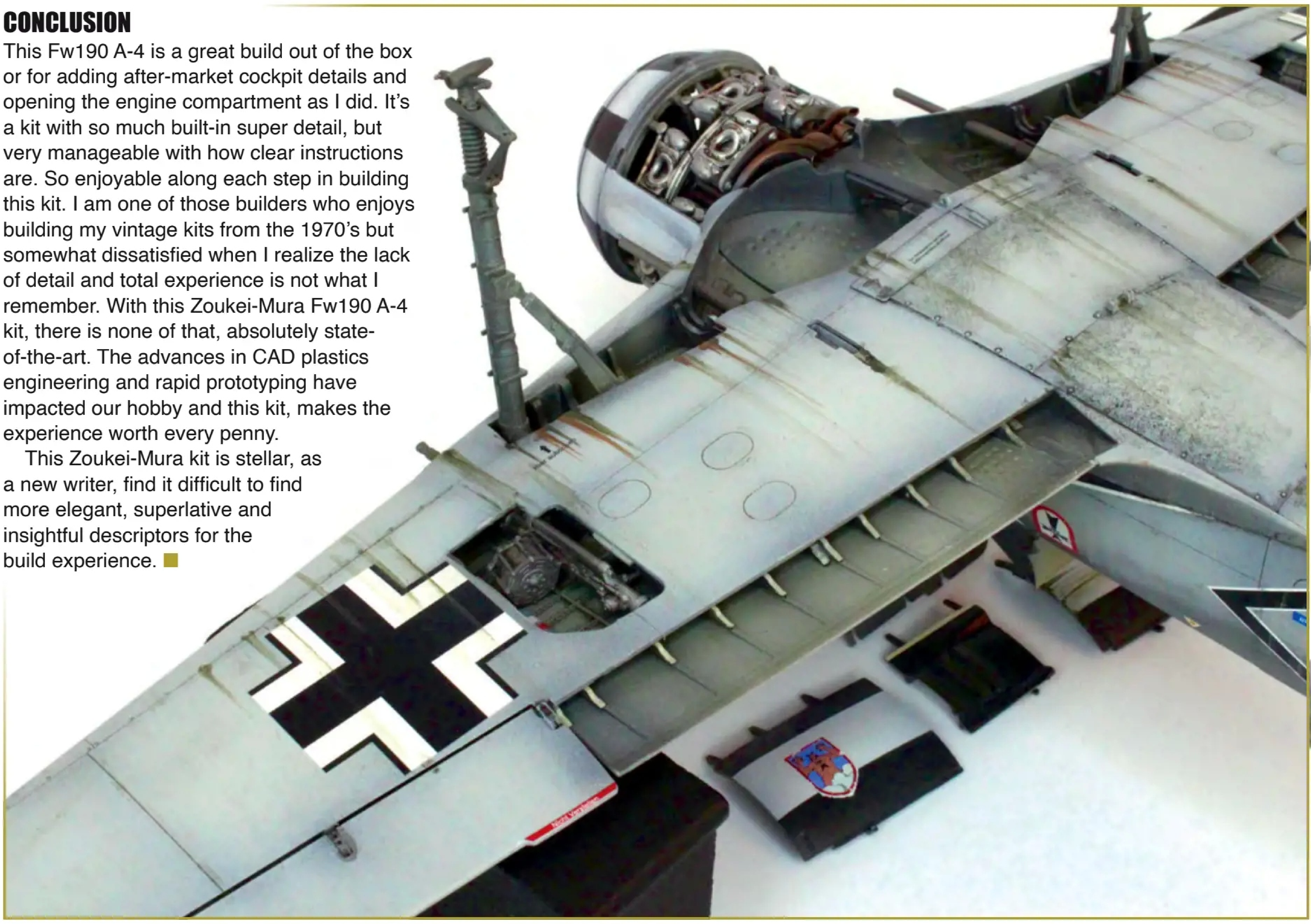
Washes and weathering applied to upper surfaces.

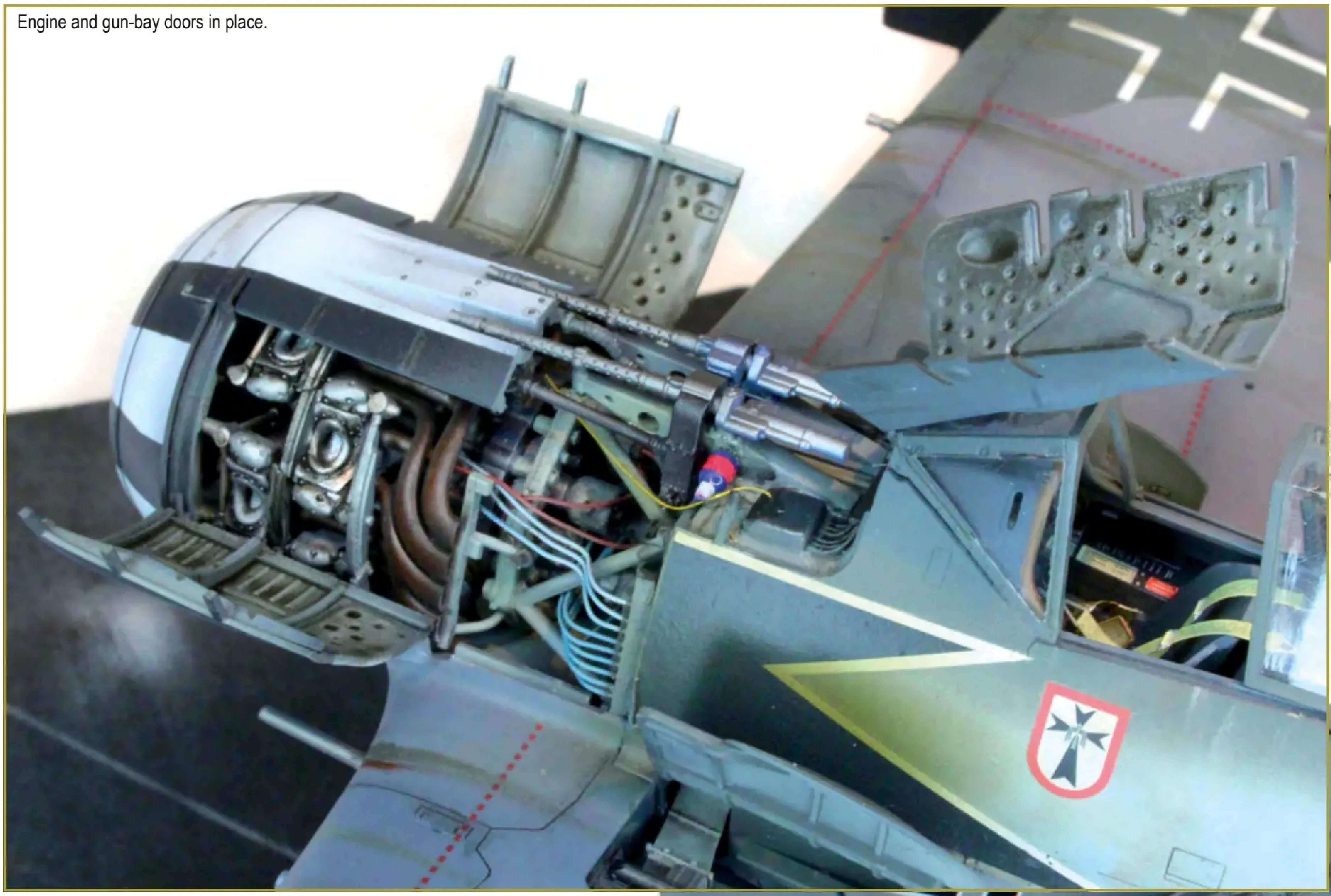
Weathering applied to lower surfaces.

CONCLUSION

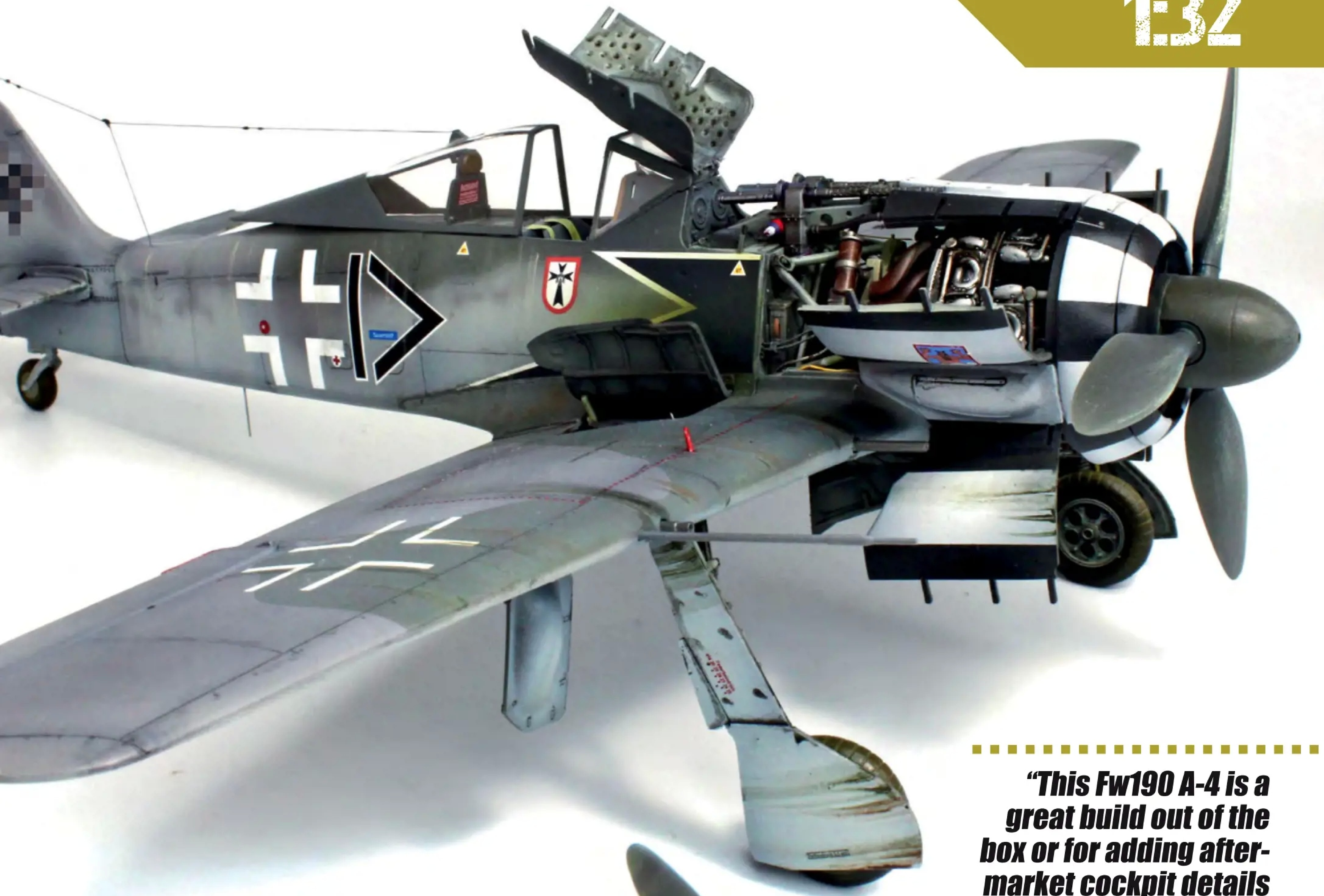
This Fw190 A-4 is a great build out of the box or for adding after-market cockpit details and opening the engine compartment as I did. It's a kit with so much built-in super detail, but very manageable with how clear instructions are. So enjoyable along each step in building this kit. I am one of those builders who enjoys building my vintage kits from the 1970's but somewhat dissatisfied when I realize the lack of detail and total experience is not what I remember. With this Zoukei-Mura Fw190 A-4 kit, there is none of that, absolutely state-of-the-art. The advances in CAD plastics engineering and rapid prototyping have impacted our hobby and this kit, makes the experience worth every penny.

This Zoukei-Mura kit is stellar, as a new writer, find it difficult to find more elegant, superlative and insightful descriptors for the build experience. ■

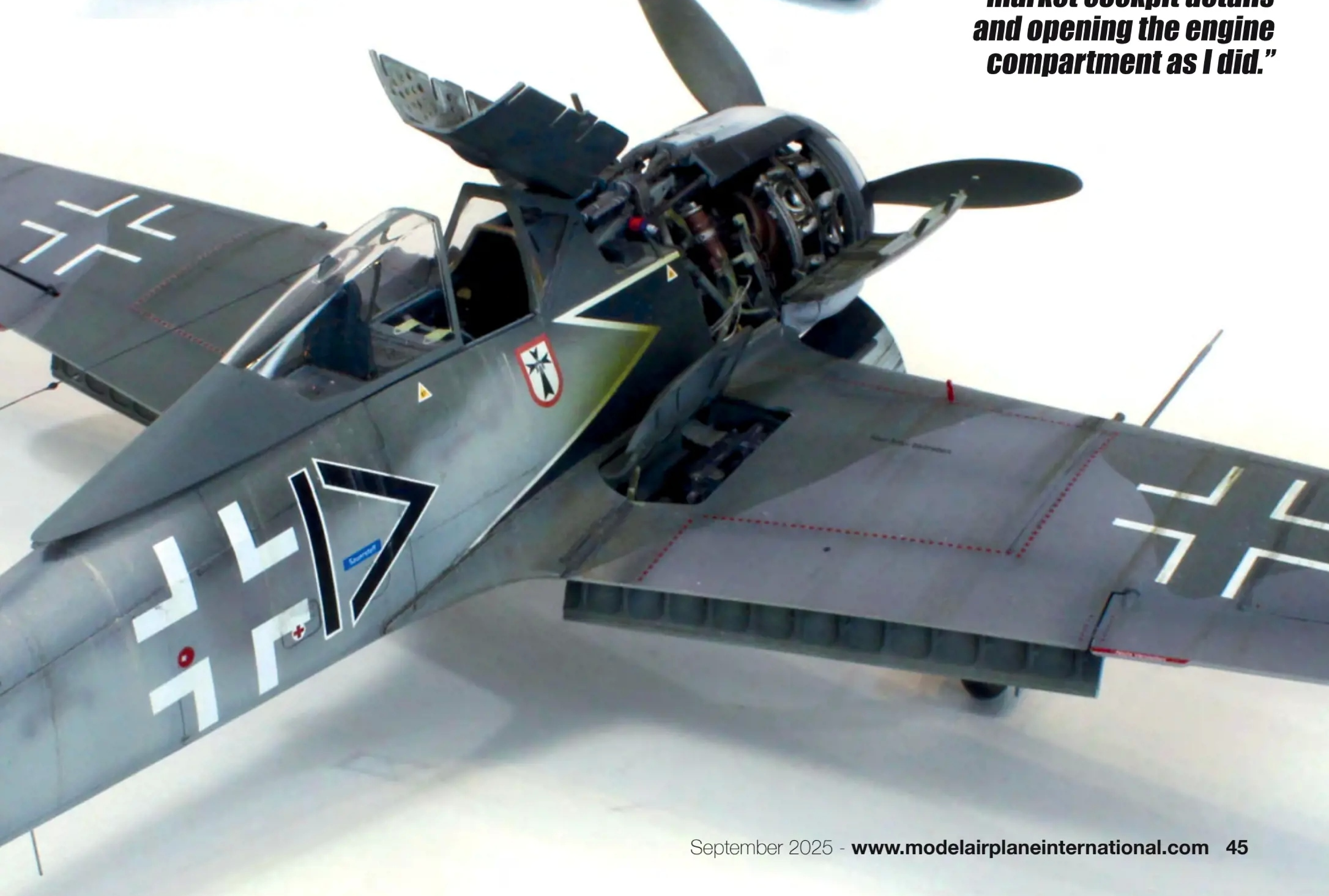




Engine and gun-bay doors in place.



> ***"This Fw190 A-4 is a great build out of the box or for adding after-market cockpit details and opening the engine compartment as I did."***



KURFURST LANDING

KIT PREVIEW Kotare Models Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 • Kit No. K32009

The Editor explores Kotare Models' brand new 1:32 scale Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 in detail.

The Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 was the last design of this famous marque to see service with the Luftwaffe. One of the main objectives of the Bf 109 K-4 was to improve performance and standardise the disparate design for more streamlined production, which had been sadly lacking in the bewildering combinations of the Bf 109 G series.

Unlike other Bf 109 G variants, the Bf 109 K was not recycled from old airframes, but was purpose built as a standardised high performance fighter.

Improvements included fitting the reworked 1,775 horsepower Daimler Benz DB 605 D which required a significantly recontoured nose, deeper oil cooler and housing, wider main wheels to improve stability taking off, landing and on the ground, a newly designed fin and rudder to compensate for the more the greater power of the type, clamshell outer main undercarriage doors and retractable tail wheel to reduce drag, and a number of metal components being replaced with wood.

Bf 109 K-4 commenced production in November 1944, the last leaving the production lines in April 1945.

Around 1,400 were delivered to Luftwaffe units by war's end.

KURFUST IN 1:32 SCALE

Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 kits in 1:32 scale have been relatively few and far between. Trumpeter's deeply flawed offering was released a decade ago in 2015. Hasegawa's 1:32 Kurfurst (less flawed, but not perfect) hit the streets in 2003, more than 20 years ago.

Let's see what Kotare has in store for us.

IN THE BOX

Kotare Models is the brainchild of modeller, veterinary specialist and owner of the fabulous Modelair hobby shop in Auckland New Zealand, Mark Robson.

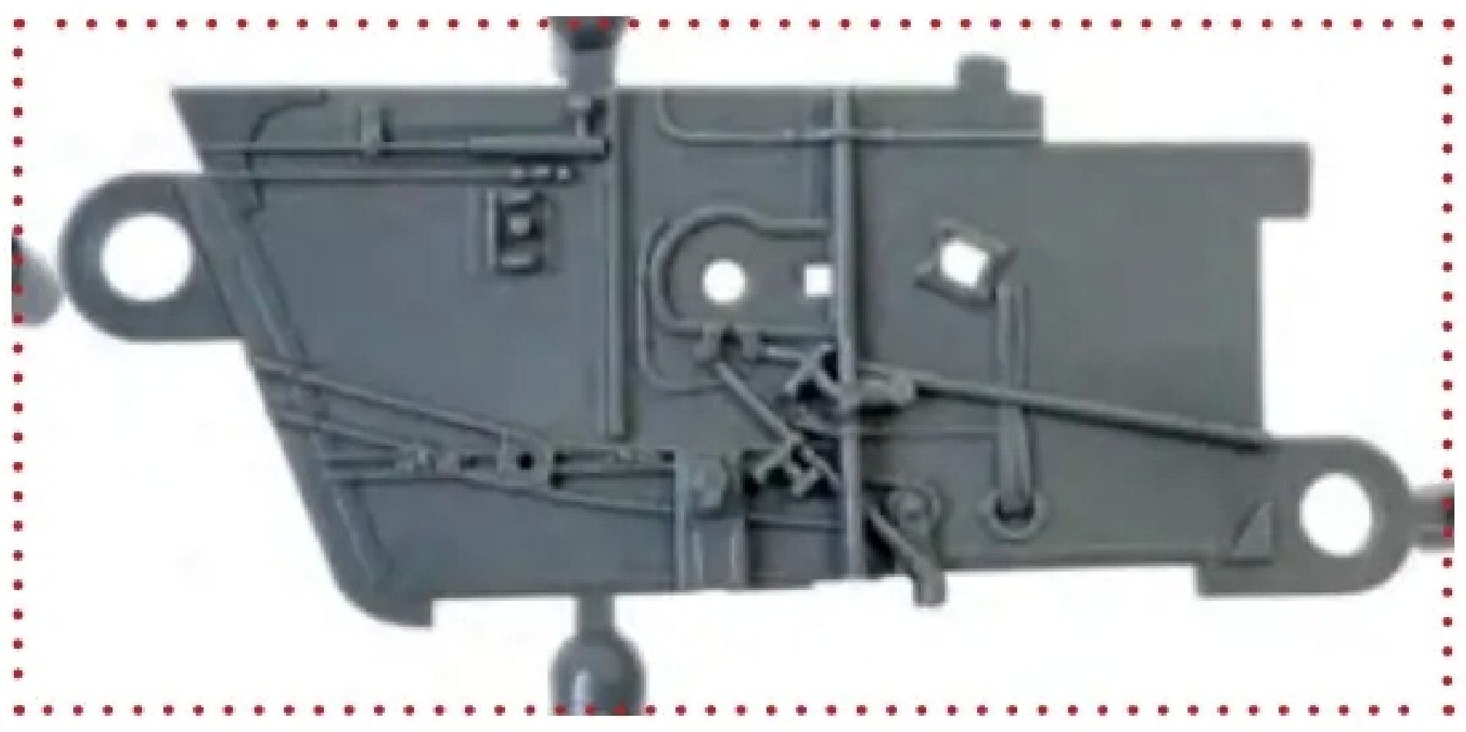
Mark has put together a team with some names that will be familiar to Wingnut Wings fans including General Manager - Richard Alexander, Product Designer - Darren Mildenhall, Decal Artist - Malcolm Laird, Profile Artist – Ronny Bar and more.

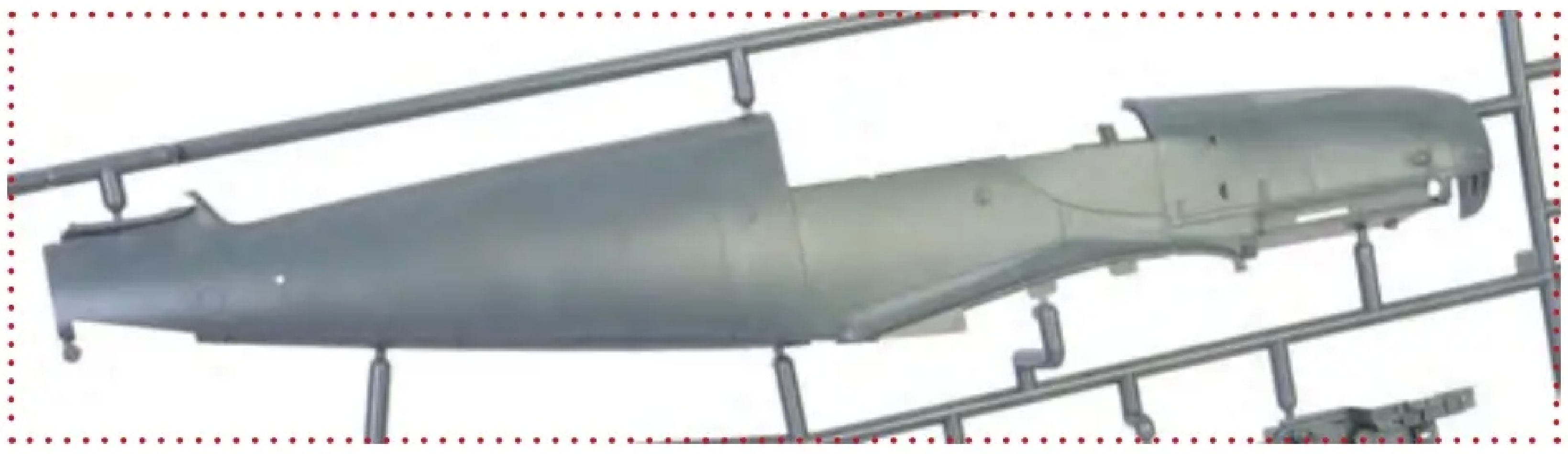
The latest release for this new venture is their 1:32 scale Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4, available now.

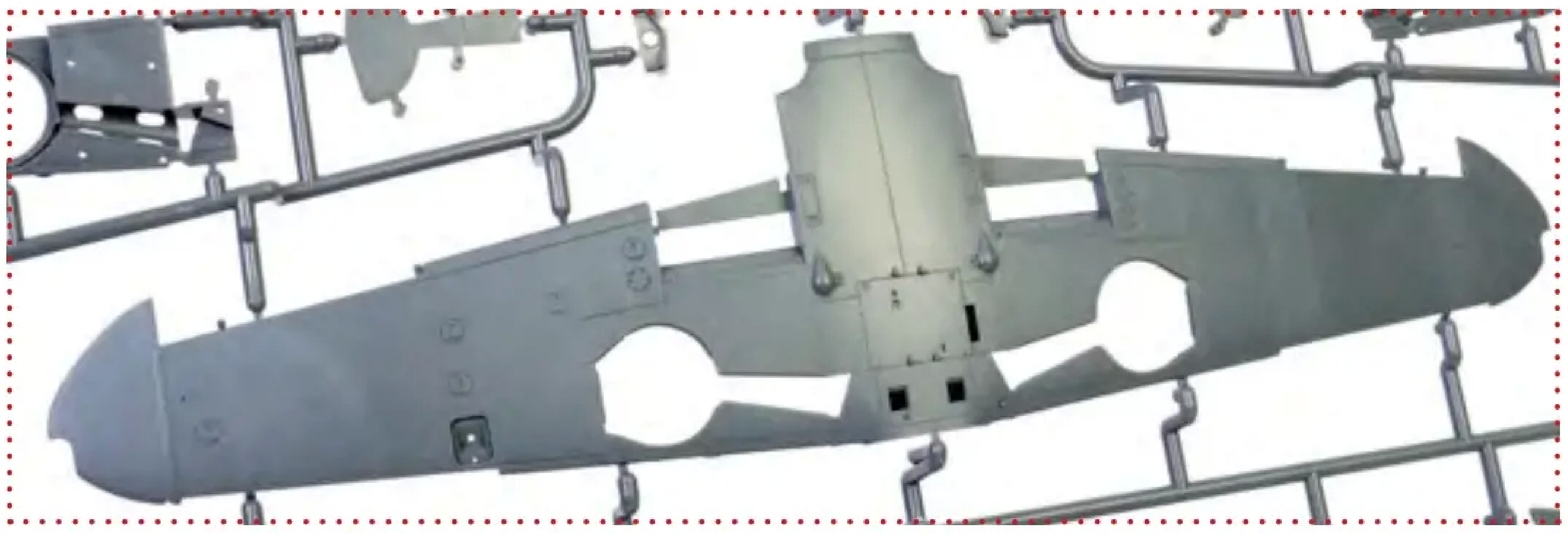
Kotare's all-new 1:32 scale Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 comprises 111 parts in grey coloured plastic, 12 parts in clear plastic, three marking options and a 40 page A4-sized instruction book.

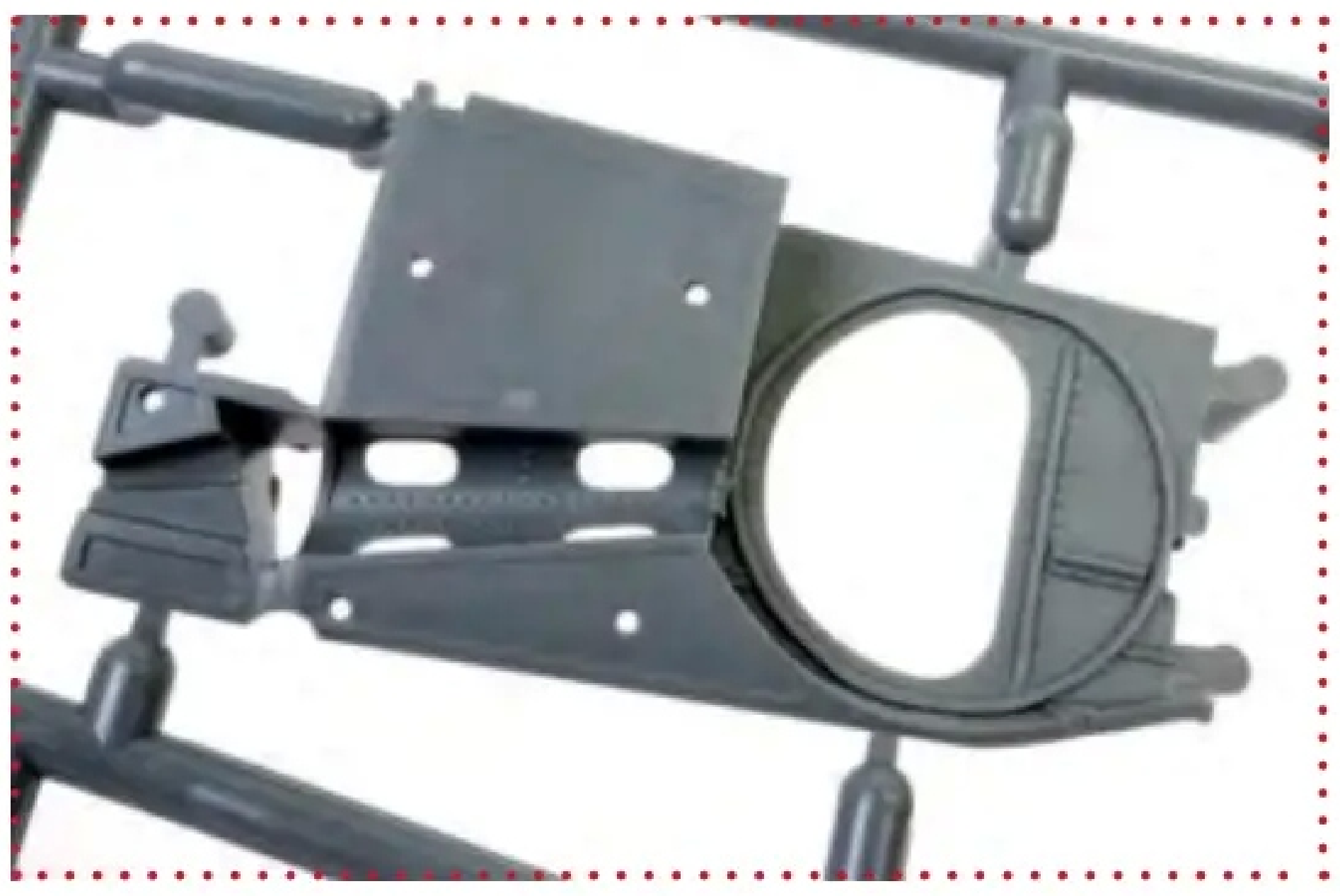
First, let's talk about the number of parts. In today's era of uber-kits, manufacturers seem to be in a race to the highest number of parts possible. This is especially true of military kits but we have seen the parts count of aircraft kits rising too.

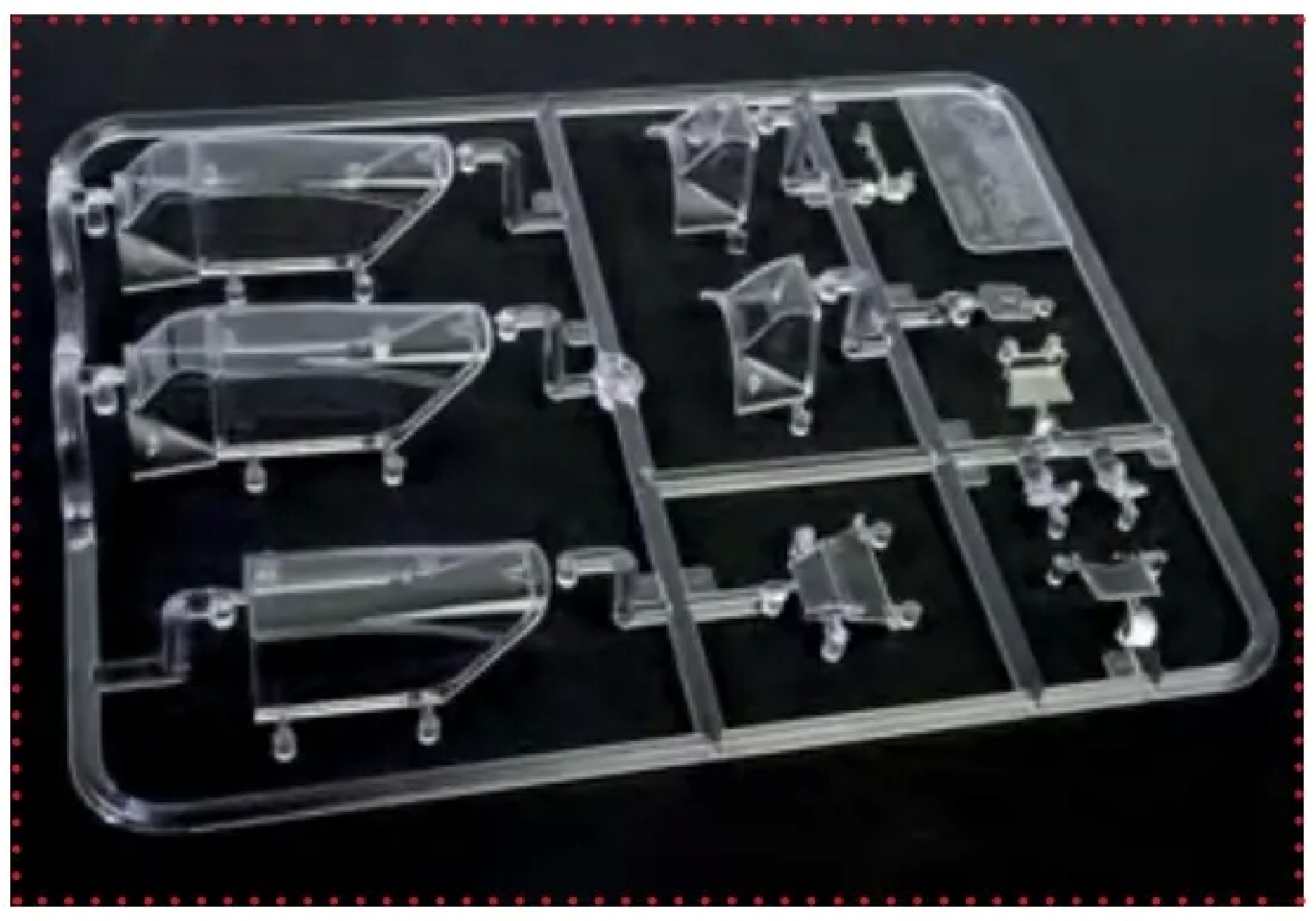
Kotare is bucking this trend with a very modest 111 grey plastic parts. They have managed this feat without compromising detail. Kotare has moulded much of the detail as single parts. Looking at the cockpit sidewalls

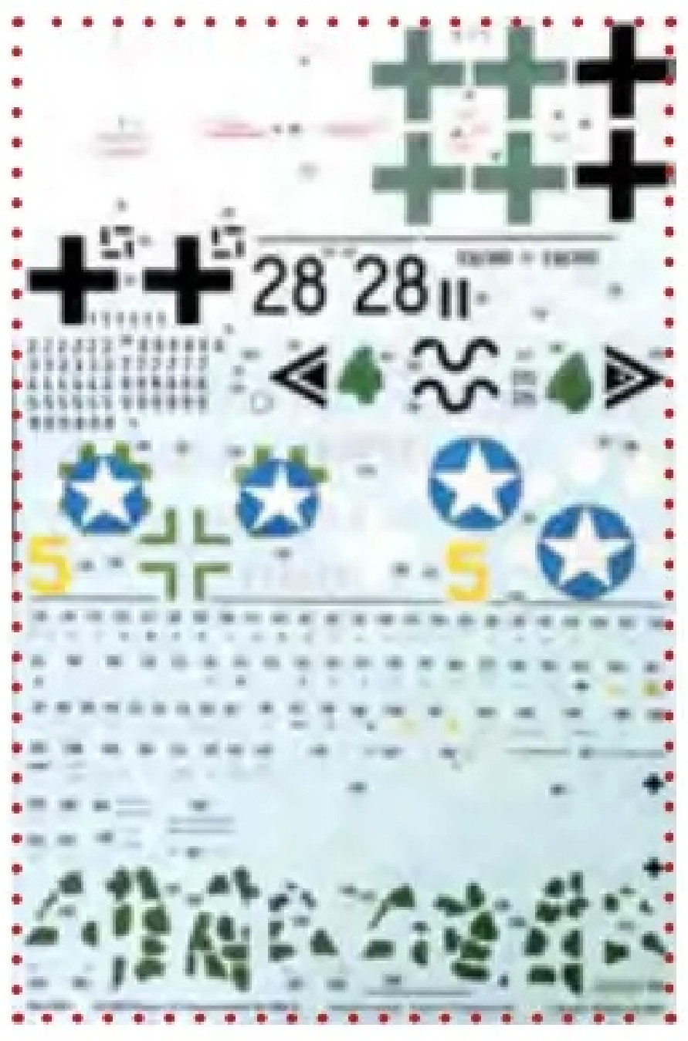












KŌTARE
1/32
High Quality Scale Model Kitset (assembly required)
Messerschmitt Bf 109K-4
Plastic Parts = 139 • Length = 27.5cm • Width = 31cm

for example, Kotare delivers remarkable detail with a minimum number of parts.

The kit is replete with similar examples – why design a seven-piece sub-assembly when you can mould it as one part? This seems to be the Kotare philosophy.

I think this approach will appeal to many modellers who would like to build a beautifully detailed kit but feel intimidated by the daunting parts count of many recent releases.

It also points to Kotare's offerings as kits to build, not to sit on the shelf.

The fuselage is broken down as two full-length sides. The gun cowl and the pilot's rear stowage bin are separate parts. The fin is separate too.

Optional parts are supplied for early and late versions of the K-4. These include alternative instrument panels, horizontal stabilisers (wood or metal), rudder and antenna masts. Parts are also supplied for open or closed tail wheel doors.

Surface textures are subtle. For the most part it is crisply recessed panel lines. These are subtly supplemented with a combination of selective recessed fasteners and raised rivets to deliver an authentic effect overall.

Fabric effect on control surfaces is once again restrained and convincing.

The small intake scoops on the engine cowling are hollowed out.

The exhaust stacks are hollowed out too.

Fasteners are also present around the cowling. Some of these are recessed behind rectangular openings, creating a 3d effect.

The cockpit is a work of art. The whole thing is made up from only 17 pieces, I have already mentioned the sidewalls, but the seat with its optional plastic harness moulded to the seat pan and the instrument panel are also worthy of special note.

The instrument panel is a single solid plastic part with dial, bezel and switch detail moulded crisply in place. Decals will be supplied for the dial detail in single and multiples.

The revised cockpit floor, breech cover and starboard sidewall accurately depict the unique features of the Bf 109 K-4.

The rudder pedals are separate parts but toe straps are not supplied.

Wings are broken down conventionally with full-span lower and separate port and starboard upper wing parts.

The outer undercarriage walls double as an effective wing spar. Kotare has also added clever tabs and slots to ensure a gap-free join at the wing root.

Kotare has moulded some of the outer lower wing panels slightly proud from the rest of the surface. This represents thicker metal skin that was used for additional strength.

The wheel well wells feature accurate structural detail including the concave ceiling.

The control surfaces are noteworthy too. Most Bf 109 models' flaps and slats suffer from fragile attachment points. I have lost count of the number of times that I have broken off delicate radiator flaps on my models. Kotare has cleverly built in tabs and slots on the flaps that on the one hand are robust but also retain the fine detail of the real thing. The tabs also set the correct angle for the dropped flaps

The slats and radiator flaps also boast a unique method of attachment, with alternative parts supplied for dropped or raised positions, once again setting the correct deployed angle.

The main wheels are bulged and flattened and keyed to make sure the flat spot sits on the ground.

The undercarriage legs are moulded as a single part each with oleo scissors and coiled hydraulic lines.

The kit supplies short and long strut tail wheel assemblies. The larger wheel for the long strut has a diagonal keyed cut-out that will ensure that the tail wheel on the finished model is flat on the ground.

The short tail wheel is moulded with the canvas boot in place.

Clear parts are thin and free from distortion.

The canopy offers the choice of a single part if posed closed, or with separate windscreen, and sliding section for the open canopy option.

Galland Panzer head armour, windscreen armoured glass, Morane mast isolator, wing tip navigation lights and a gunsight are also supplied as clear parts too.

INSTRUCTIONS AND MARKINGS

The instructions are as much an education as they are assembly directions. There are many detail notes as well as helpfully captioned reference photos and illustrations throughout.

The 40 page full-colour A-4 book offers assembly instructions, four view colour illustrations for the three marking option plus reference photos and notes for each of the three marking options, stencil diagram and additional reference.

Another really clever idea is the inclusion of individual hard-edged mottle decals for the rudder and fin. Two styles are included.

Markings are supplied for three subjects. The decals sheet includes a number jungle of Werknummern, individual dials for the instrument panel and a spinner spiral.

The overpainted markings on the decal sheet are easily the best I have seen. They really look roughly brush painted.

RESIN EXHAUSTS (WITH PRE-ORDERS ONLY)

If you pre-ordered your Kotare Bf 109 K-4 (as I did), you will have also received a bonus resin 3d printed set of exhausts and heat shields.

These are printed as one piece per side. The upper and lower heat shields are printed in place.

The exhaust stacks are hollowed out.

Clean-up looks like it will be fast and easy.

The exhausts are also available separately on Kotare's website for USD $16.99 plus shipping.

CONCLUSION

Another Bf 109? Yes please!

Bf 109 K-4 kits in 1:32 scale have been relatively few and far between. Trumpeter's deeply flawed offering was released a decade ago in 2015. Hasegawa's 1:32 Kurfurst (less flawed, but still not perfect) hit the streets in 2003, more than 20 years ago.

This ultimate Bf 109 variant deserves to benefit from the latest technology and access to emerging research.

Kotare Models has again found the Goldilocks recipe – detail and buildability are just right. Its relatively modest parts count does not compromise detail at all.

Everything you need to model a beautifully detailed Bf 109 K-4 is right here in the box.

This is another superb 1:32 scale offering from Kotare.

It's available now. Don't miss out! ■

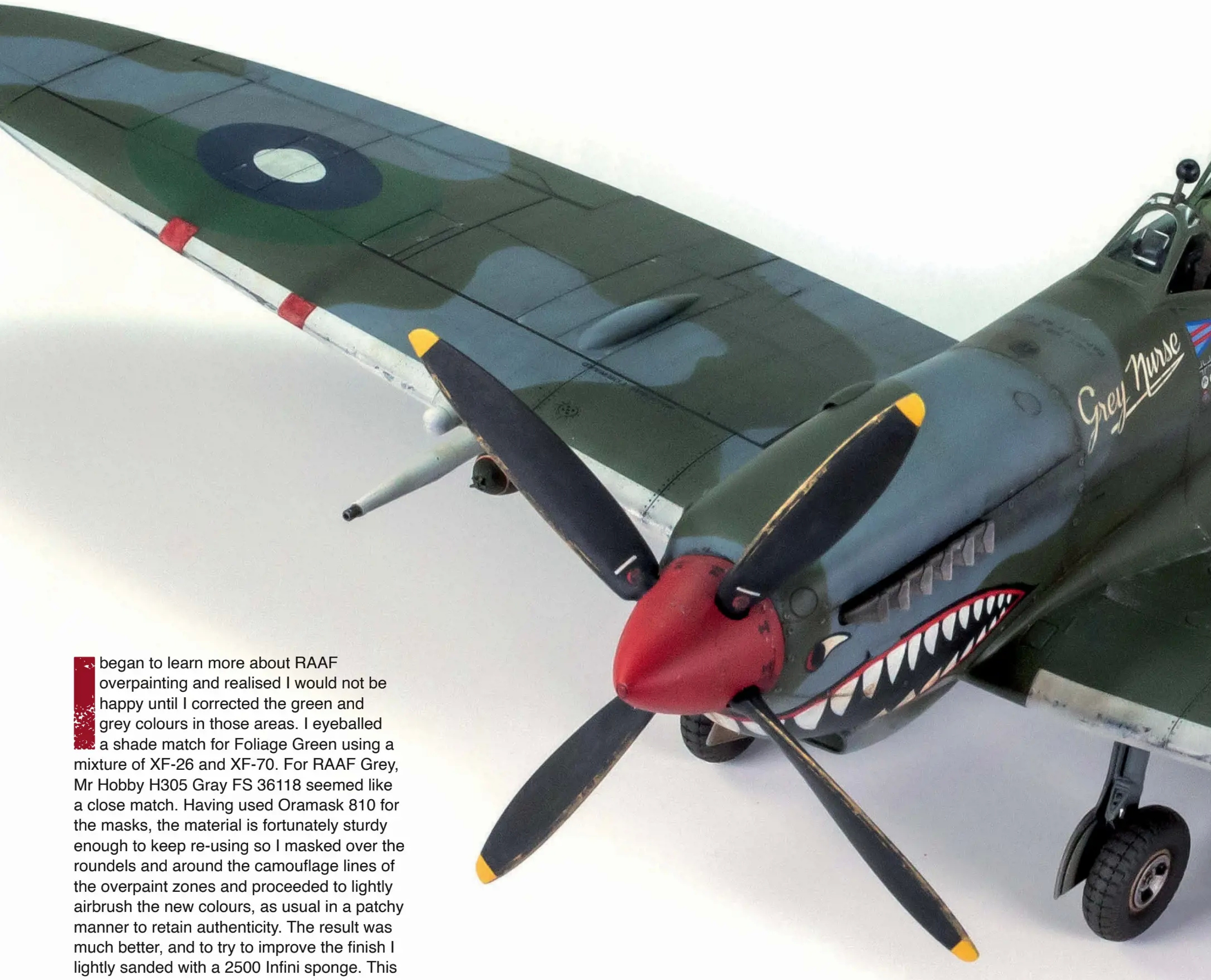
Purchased by the reviewer

Tamiya 1:32 Spitfire Mk VIII • Kit No. 60320

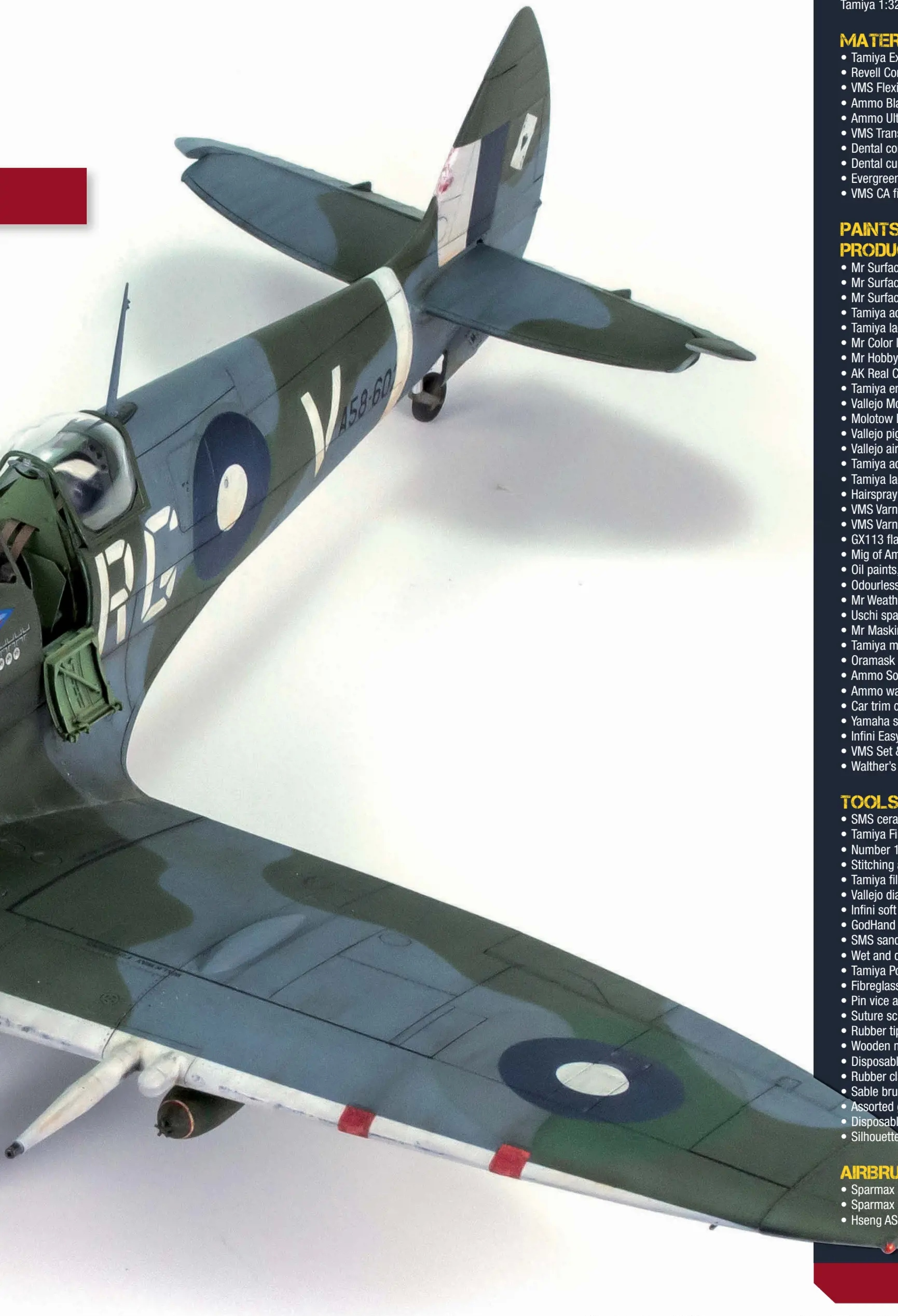
GREY NURSE

PART THREE - PAINTING AND FINISHING

Mark Casiglia completes Tamiya's 1:32 Spitfire Mk VIII.



I began to learn more about RAAF overpainting and realised I would not be happy until I corrected the green and grey colours in those areas. I eyeballed a shade match for Foliage Green using a mixture of XF-26 and XF-70. For RAAF Grey, Mr Hobby H305 Gray FS 36118 seemed like a close match. Having used Oramask 810 for the masks, the material is fortunately sturdy enough to keep re-using so I masked over the roundels and around the camouflage lines of the overpaint zones and proceeded to lightly airbrush the new colours, as usual in a patchy manner to retain authenticity. The result was much better, and to try to improve the finish I lightly sanded with a 2500 Infini sponge. This resulted in the lime-yellow underlying green to begin to show itself, so the revisions were not final, with a revisit of the same colour mixes to come, later in the project. ▶



SPECIFICATION:

Tamiya 1:32 Spitfire Mk VIII. Kit No. 60320

MATERIALS USED:

- Tamiya Extra Thin Cement
- Revell Contacta Cement
- VMS Flexi 5K CA
- Ammo Black Slow Dry CA
- Ammo Ultra Glue
- VMS Transpa Fix 6K
- Dental composite resin
- Dental curing light
- Evergreen sheet styrene
- VMS CA filler

PAINTS AND FINISHING PRODUCTS USED:

- Mr Surfacer 1500 Black
- Mr Surfacer 1500 Grey
- Mr Surfacer 500 Grey
- Tamiya acrylic paint
- Tamiya lacquer paint
- Mr Color lacquer paint
- Mr Hobby acrylic paint
- AK Real Colors lacquer paint
- Tamiya enamel paint
- Vallejo Model Color acrylic paint
- Molotow Liquid Chrome
- Vallejo pigment
- Vallejo airbrush flow improver
- Tamiya acrylic paint retarder
- Tamiya lacquer paint retarder
- Hairspray
- VMS Varnish Satin
- VMS Varnish Matt
- GX113 flat clear
- Mig of Ammo Oil Brusher
- Oil paints, various
- Odourless solvent
- Mr Weathering Color
- Uschi spatter mask
- Mr Masking Sol Neo
- Tamiya masking tape, all widths
- Oramask 810 adhesive vinyl
- Ammo Softouch Velvet masking sheet
- Ammo washi masking sheet
- Car trim chrome tape
- Yamaha saxophone pad cleaning paper
- Infini Easycutting Type A mat
- VMS Set & Fix
- Walther's Solvaset

TOOLS:

- SMS ceramic scraper
- Tamiya Fine Craft Saw
- Number 11 Scalpel
- Stitching awl
- Tamiya files
- Vallejo diamond files
- Infini soft sanding sticks
- GodHand sanding blocks
- SMS sanding sticks
- Wet and dry sandpaper
- Tamiya Polishing Compounds
- Fibreglass pen
- Pin vice and drill bits
- Suture scissors
- Rubber tipped clothes pegs
- Wooden mini craft pegs
- Disposable biopsy punch
- Rubber clay sculpting tool
- Sable brush 00
- Assorted general brushes
- Disposable micro brushes
- Silhouette Portrait 2 cutter

AIRBRUSHES:

- Sparmax SP-20x 0.2mm airbrush
- Sparmax Max-4 0.4mm airbrush
- Hseng AS186 Air Compressor

DARK GREEN 2
XF-70
DEEP GREEN
XF-26

Continuing research suggested the overpainted areas, particularly the green, was completely the wrong shade. I used an eyeballed mixture of XF-70 Dark Green 2 and XF-26 Deep Green to match Foliage Green

HOBBY COLOR
H305
GRAY FS36118

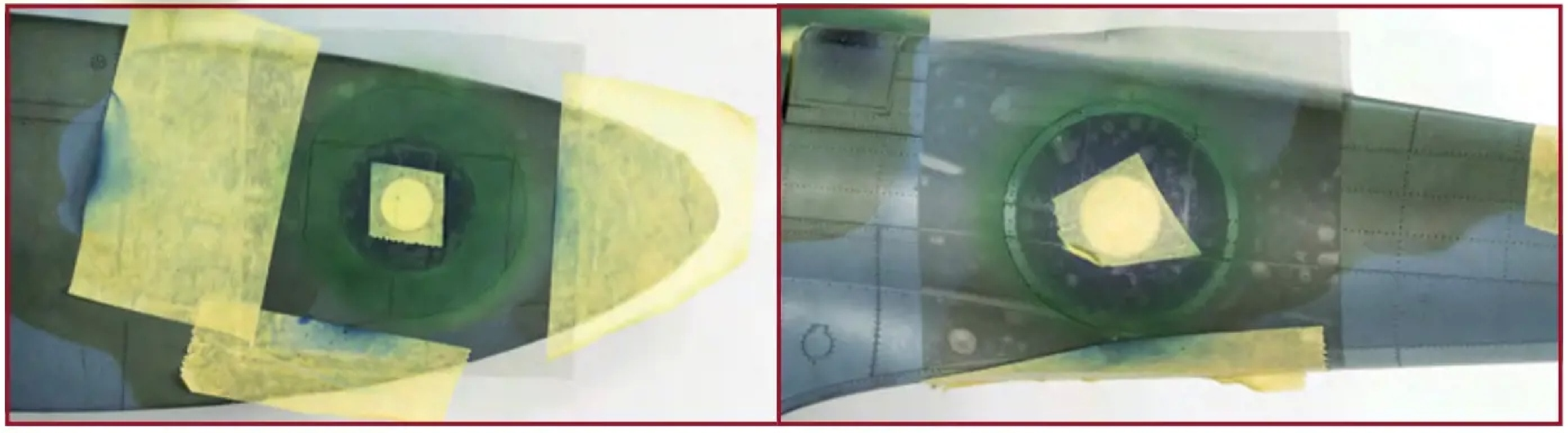
Mr Hobby H305 Gray FS36118 looked like a very good approximation of RAAF Grey

PAINTING THE CODES

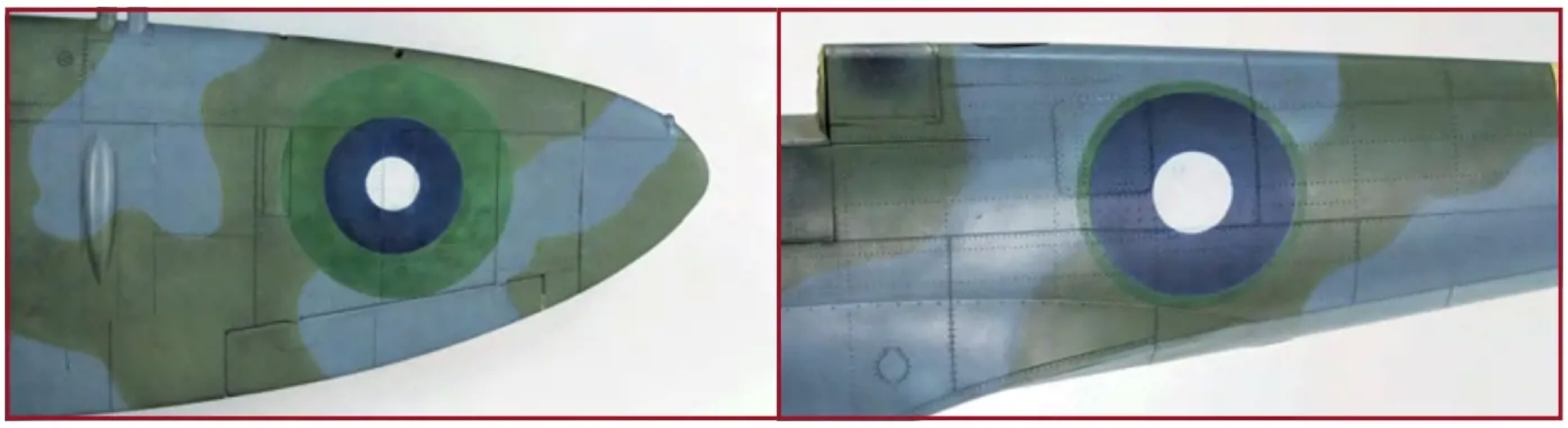
To paint the squadron codes I again used vinyl masks produced from scans of the decal sheet. I masked the white fuselage band forward of the tail at the same time, as well as the leading edge of the wings and the white portion of the fin flash. LP-4 was airbrushed on all those areas, with just enough density to achieve the required result. Too much paint just creates too much colour density which can look artificial, and risks paint leeching through the masks. It was at this stage that my error regarding the camouflage Dark Green 2 colour was realised. There was a period of deliberation where I questioned whether to leave it or go to the trouble of correcting it, and ultimately the choice was clear as I reached for the correct XF-81.

To prepare for repainting the green, there were could be no shortcuts. I re-masked the white areas just painted, again fortunate that Oramask 810 is eminently reusable. Similarly the roundels and overpaint zones were masked. For the camouflage pattern, I used a disposable micro-brush to trace out a 3mm border in the Ocean Gray zones and shark mouth. I chose not to mask beyond that into the central portions of those areas since my plan was to airbrush at low pressure and in a very small, controlled pattern. Once this was complete, the masks were removed. A rubber clay sculpting tool was used to remove the liquid mask as it grips the material and helps it roll off with no risk of damaging the underlying paint surface. A very light sanding with a piece of 2500 Infini sponge sheet helped to unify the result and brought out a little of the underlying XF-89. Since I knew the colour revision would nullify the original underlying textures, my goal was to create as much shade variation as possible with the new colour. In what I saw as a happy accident, I decided that using different colours and a sanding step is in fact an advantage to the final result and will inform future painting methods when colour and tone variation is desired. ►

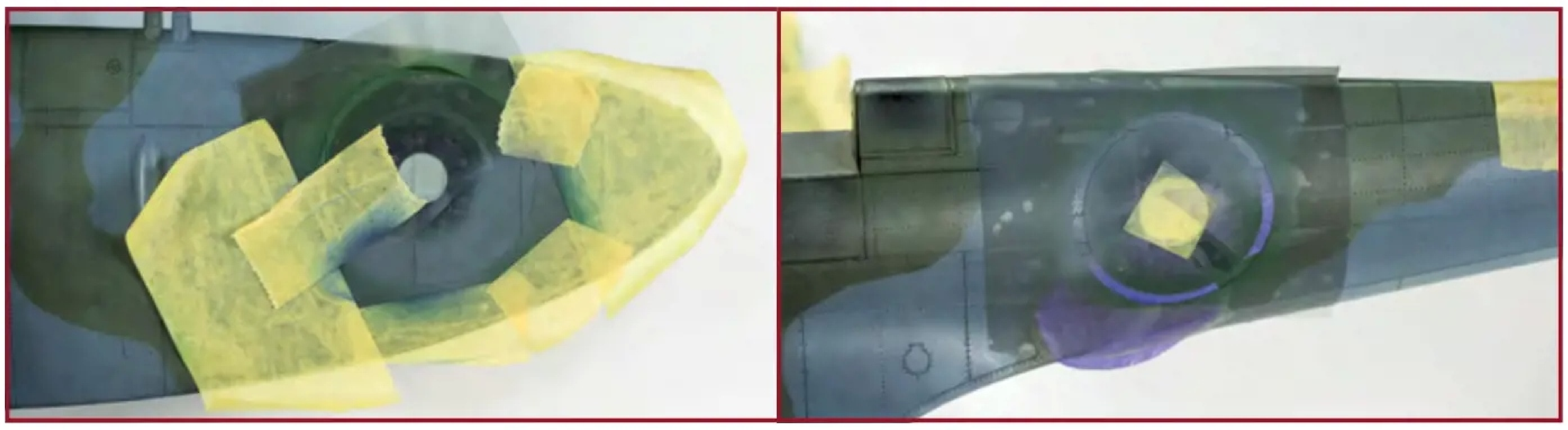
DARK GREEN 2 (RAF)
XF-81



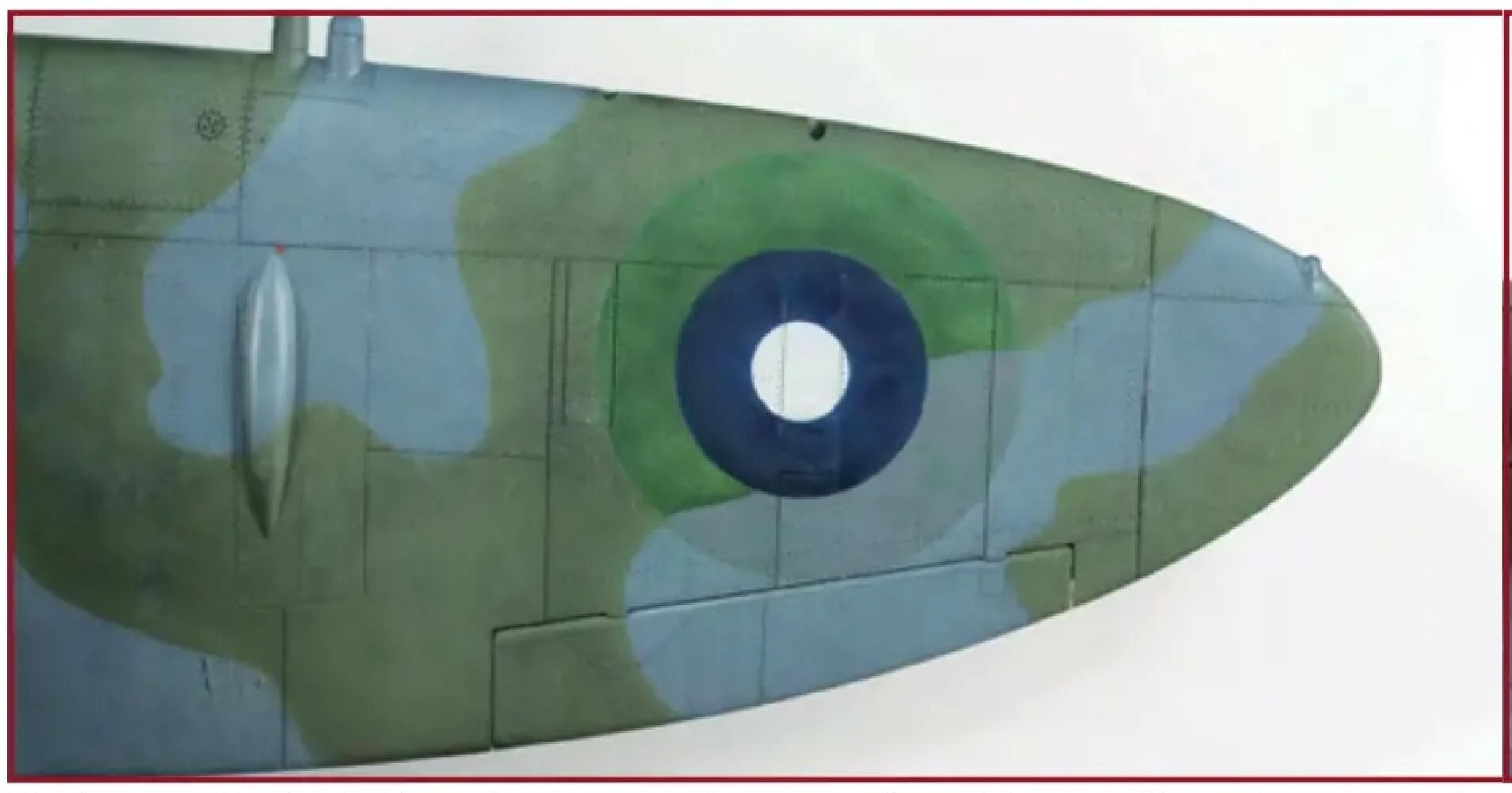
Using the same masks, I airbrushed the new green background in a deliberately patchy manner



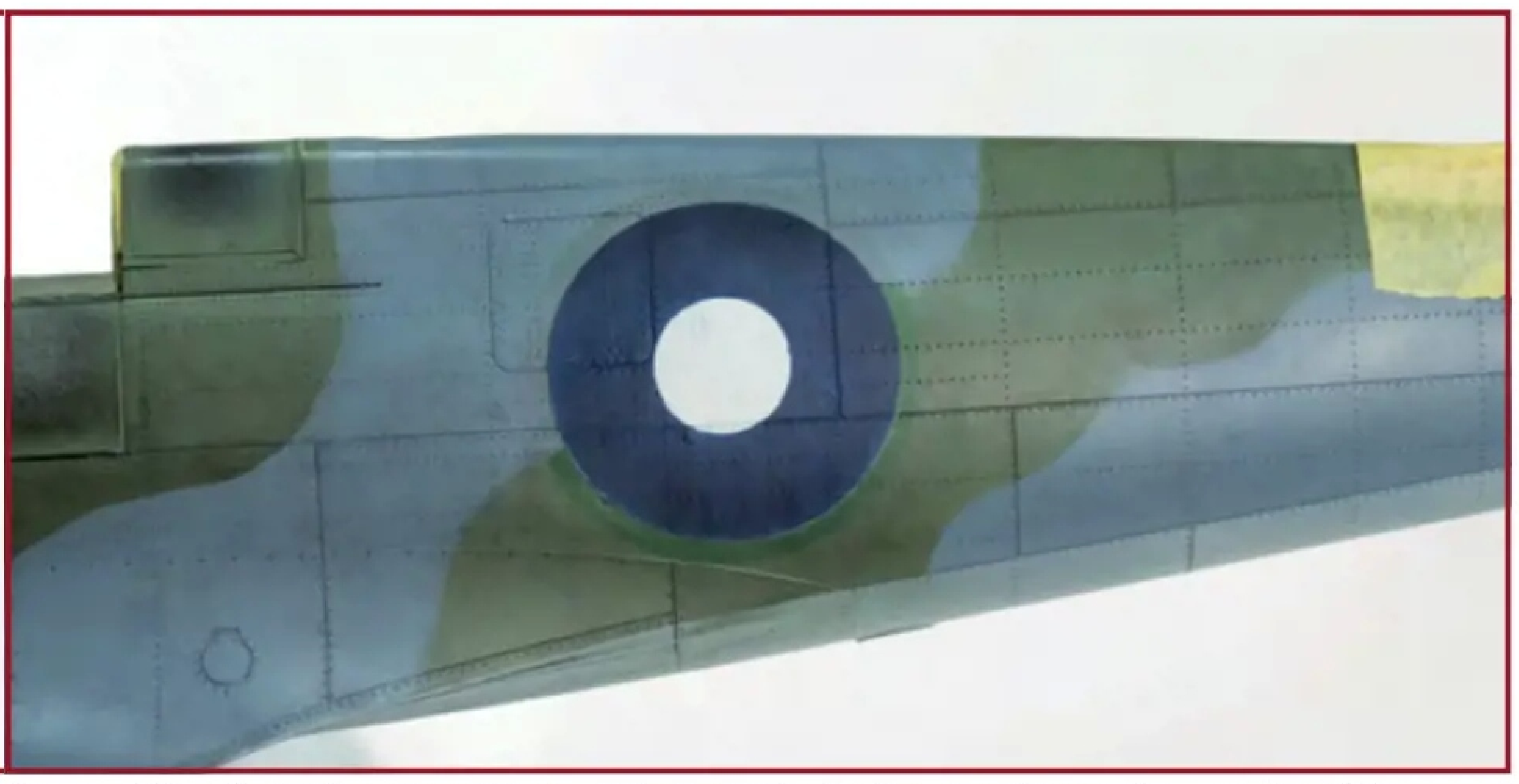
Verifying the result of the green overpaint, I was much happier with this



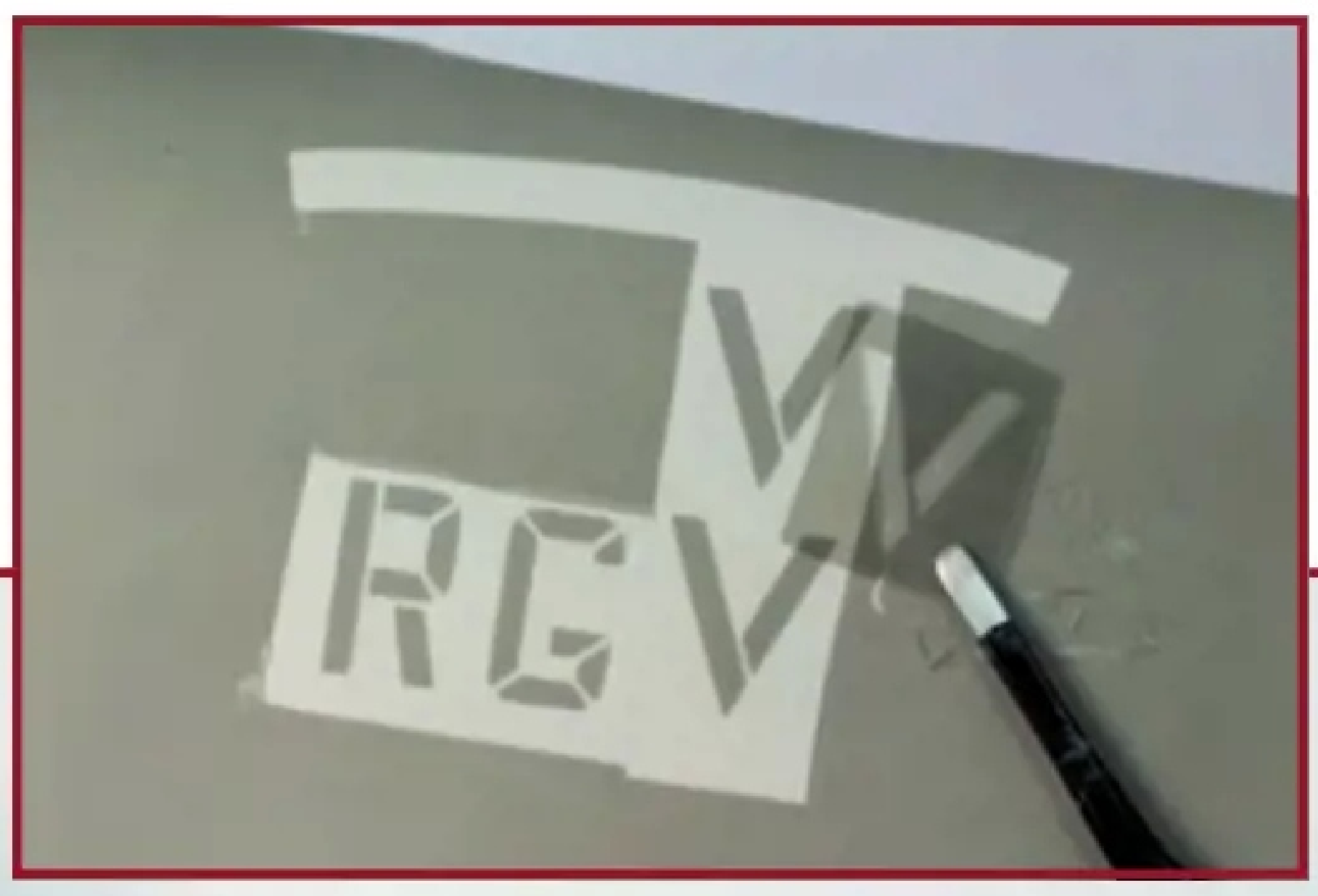
Using the original masks again, I applied the new grey layer



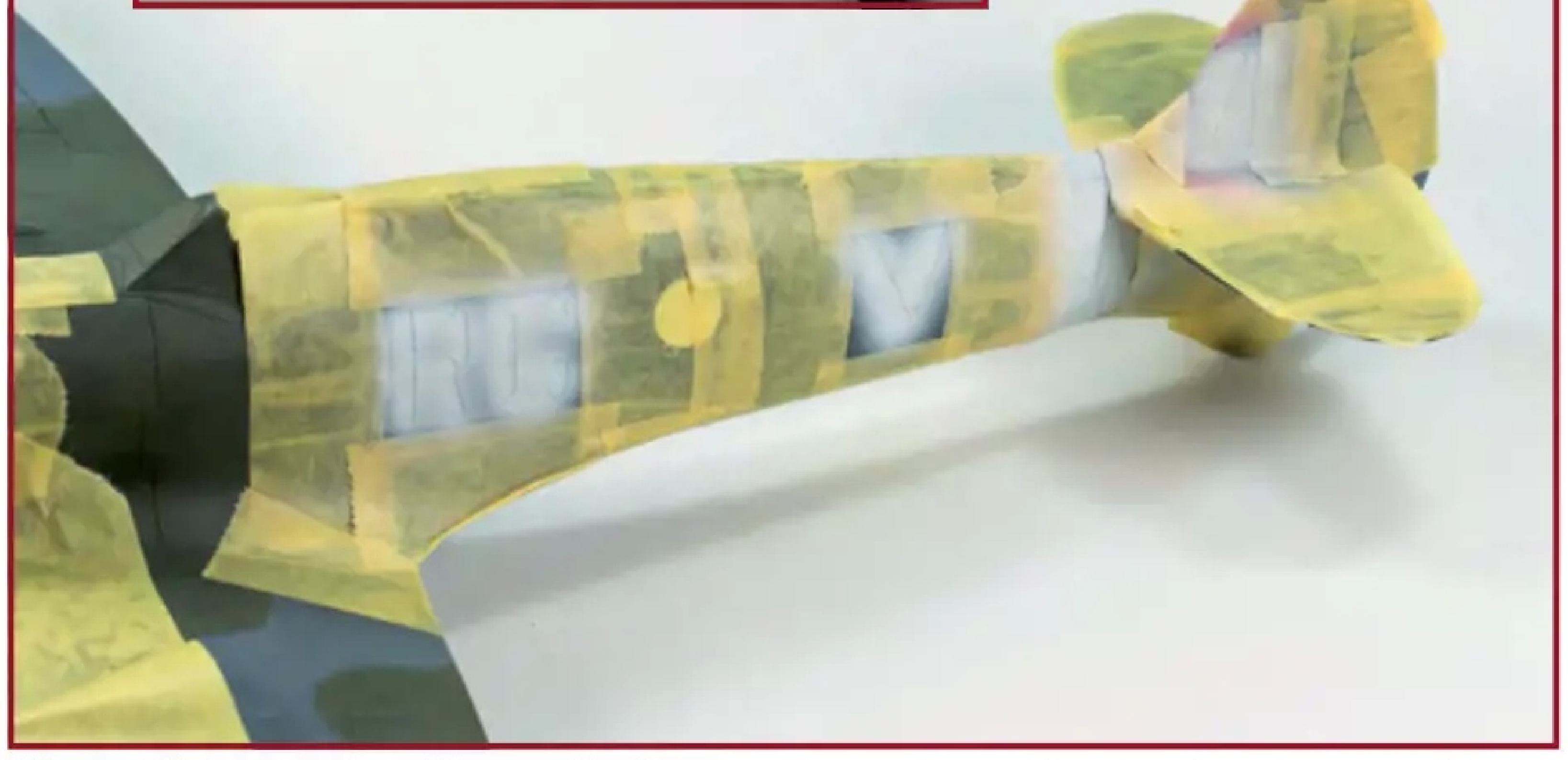
The final result. After light sanding to hopefully improve the patchiness of the colour, some of the yellowish underlying green started to come through. This was left for the time being but ultimately would be revised



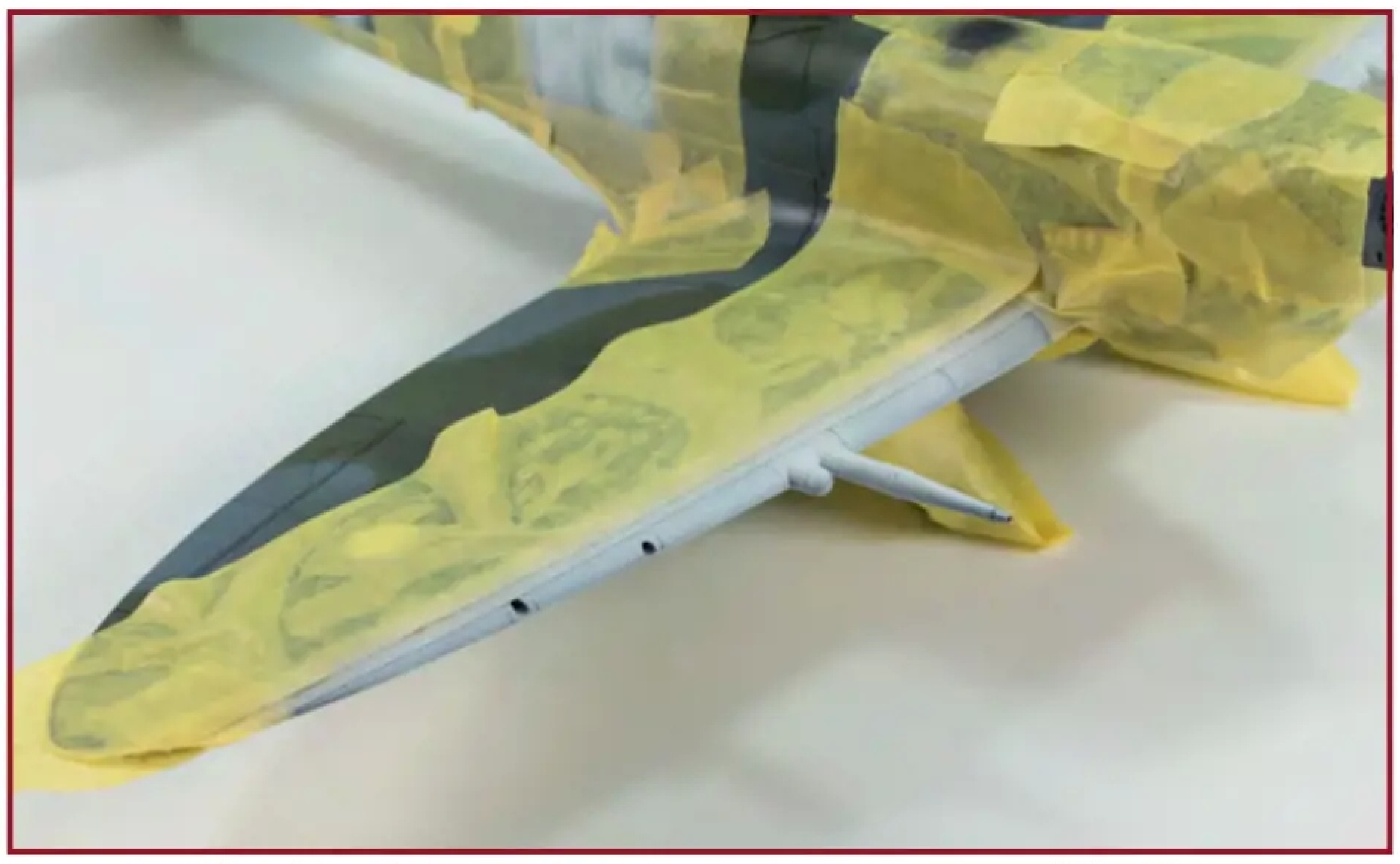
Scans of the kit decals were used to produce masks for the squadron codes and the white fuselage band in front of the tail



Scans of the kit decals were used to produce masks for the squadron codes and the white fuselage band in front of the tail

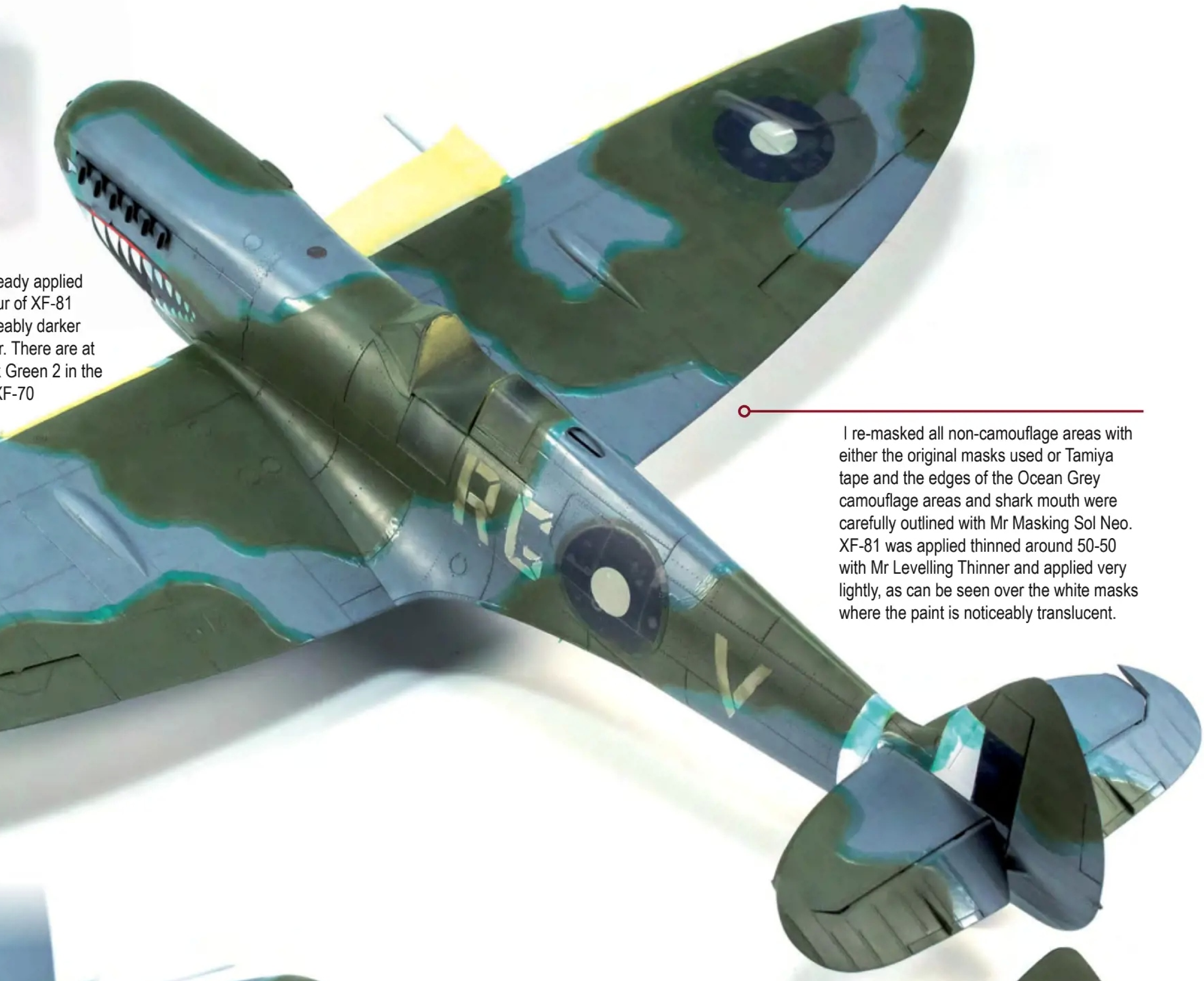


After careful positioning of the masks, the squadron codes and fuselage bands were painted in LP-4 along with the white portion of the fin flash

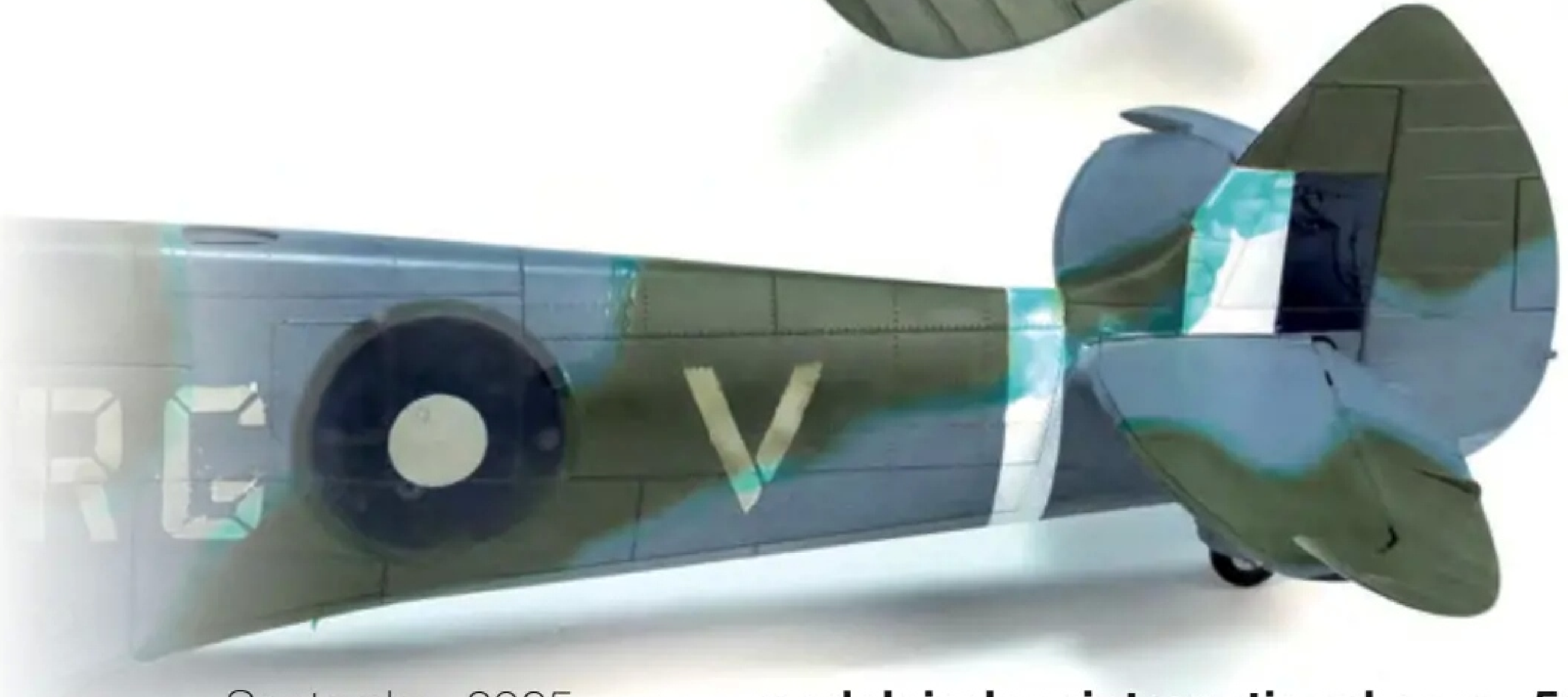


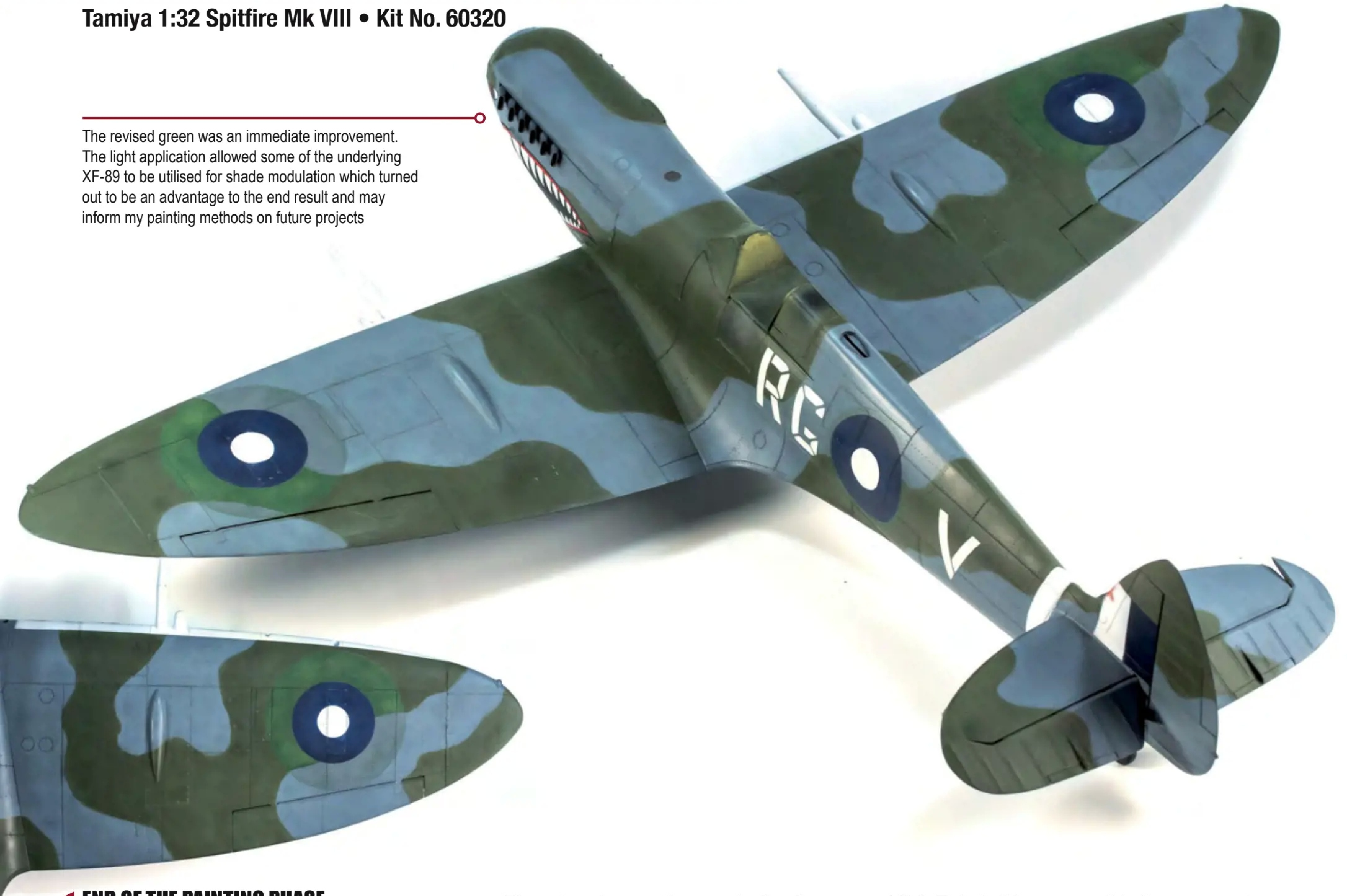
The leading edge of the wings were masked and painted white along with the Hispano canons

Whilst XF-89 Dark Green 2 already applied was plausible, the correct colour of XF-81 Dark Green 2 (RAF) was noticeably darker so I decided to correct the error. There are at least three paints labelled Dark Green 2 in the Tamiya range, the third being XF-70



I re-masked all non-camouflage areas with either the original masks used or Tamiya tape and the edges of the Ocean Grey camouflage areas and shark mouth were carefully outlined with Mr Masking Sol Neo. XF-81 was applied thinned around 50-50 with Mr Levelling Thinner and applied very lightly, as can be seen over the white masks where the paint is noticeably translucent.





The revised green was an immediate improvement. The light application allowed some of the underlying XF-89 to be utilised for shade modulation which turned out to be an advantage to the end result and may inform my painting methods on future projects

END OF THE PAINTING PHASE

The project was coming close to the end of the painting stages. There were just a few details left, plus all important touch ups before sealing, decals and weathering. At this point I did the final revision of the overpainted areas, masking and very lightly adding to the colours there to remove the yellow show-through which occurred from sanding after the previous revision. The result was definitely better and a worthwhile extra step.

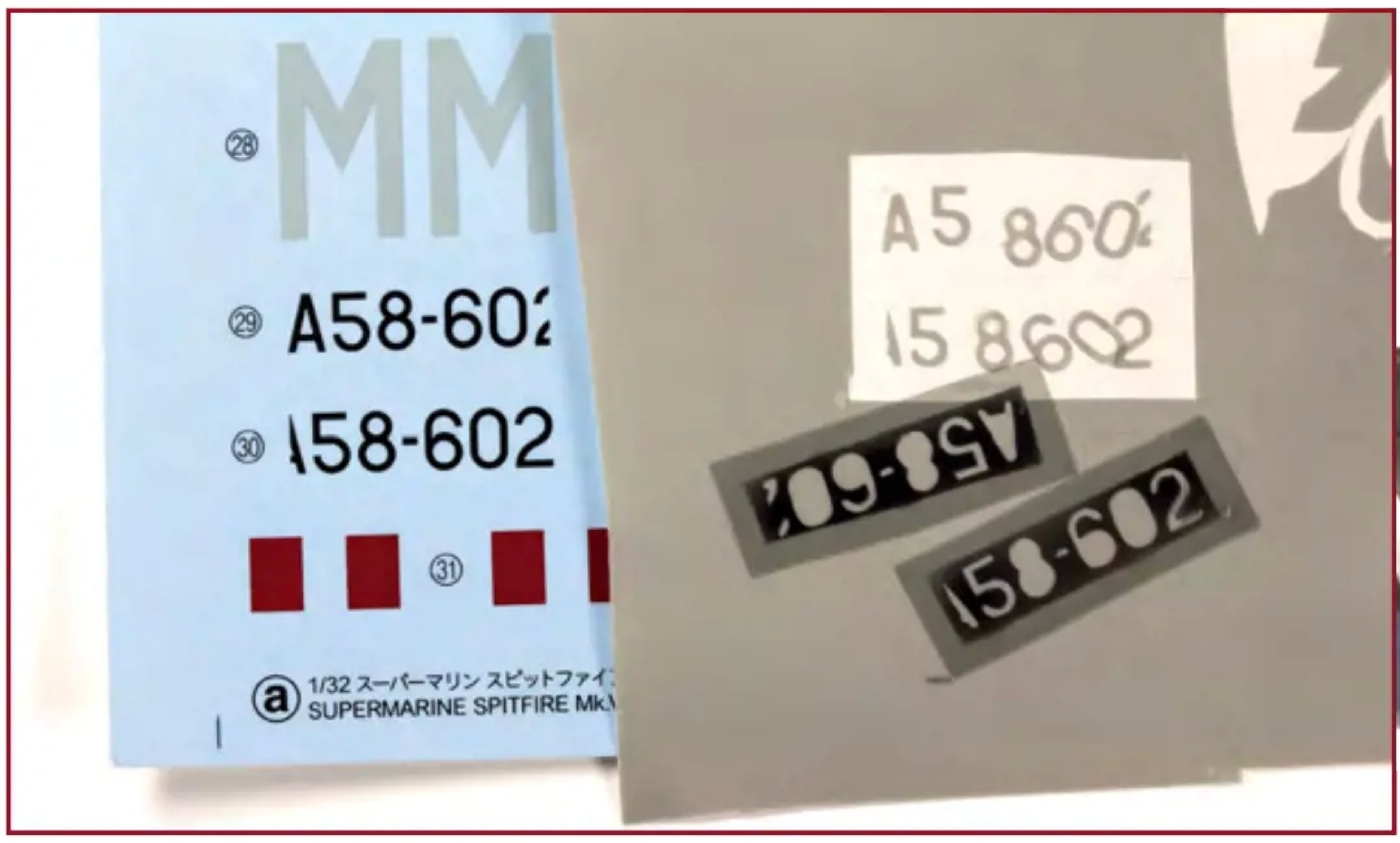
The serial codes were painted in LP-3, once again using masks from the decal sheet. Meanwhile the white paint at the leading edge of the fin flash was wet and rubbed back to reveal some underlying red.

The exhausts were then masked and painted. The base layer was airbrushed in XF-84 Dark Iron, followed by a light dusting from distance with LP-44 Metallic Orange. To achieve the light coloured lead-stain on the exhausts, a mixture of XF-2 and XF-20 enamel was lightly dry brushed, increasing the effect from the second exhaust through to the sixth where the density of this stain is the greatest.

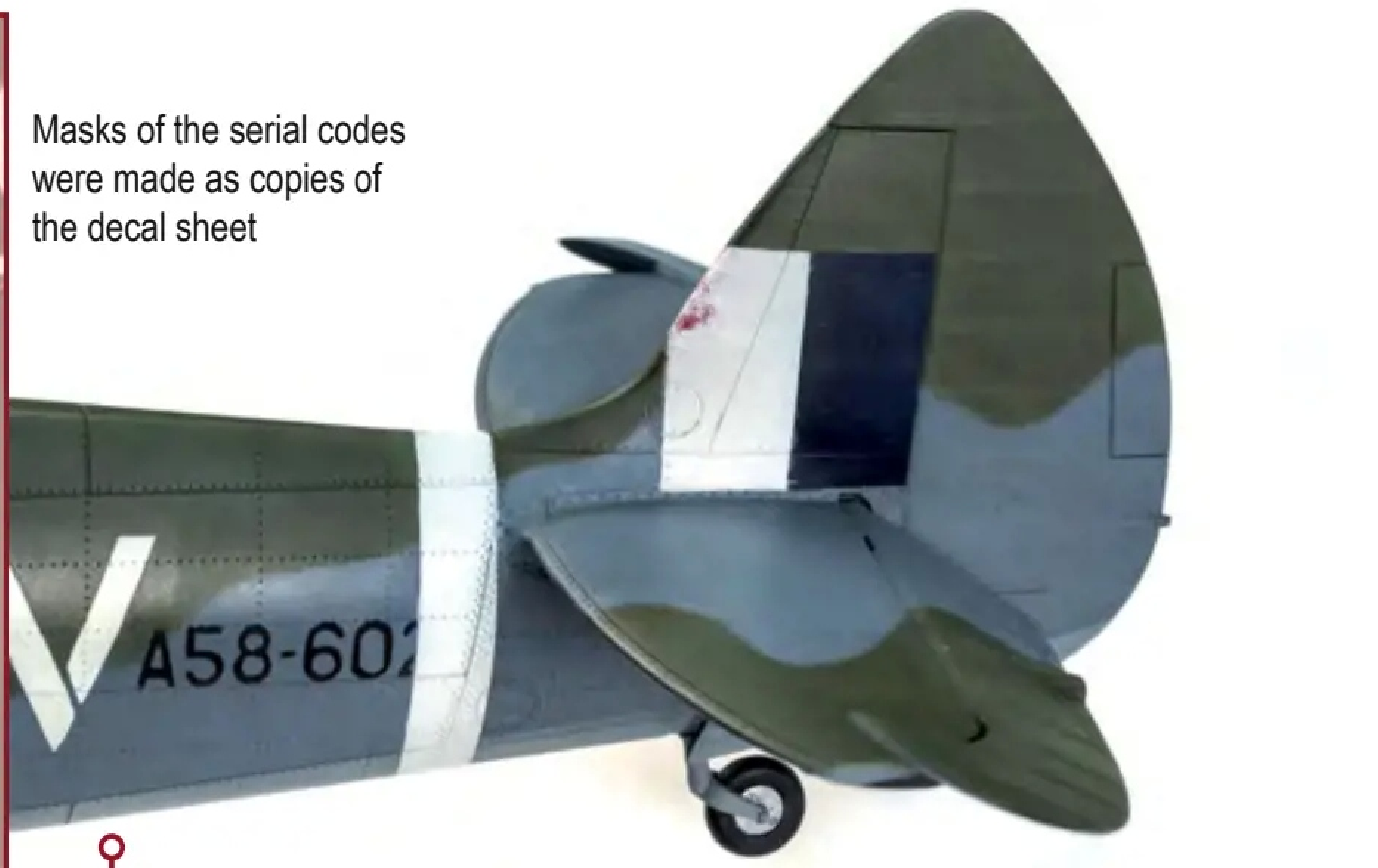
To blend the effect and add the necessary flat finish, Mr Color GX113 mixed with a touch of XF-84 was airbrushed overall and upon removing the Tamiya tape the end result looked very convincing. To finalise the paint work, I chose to mask the no-walk lines on the upper surfaces of the wings and paint them in LP-3. To help this process, thin lines were cut from Tamiya tape using an Infini Easycutting mat Type A, with the width copied from the decal. The strips helped to position the outline masks for these lines, both for position and maintenance of the correct width.

DECALS

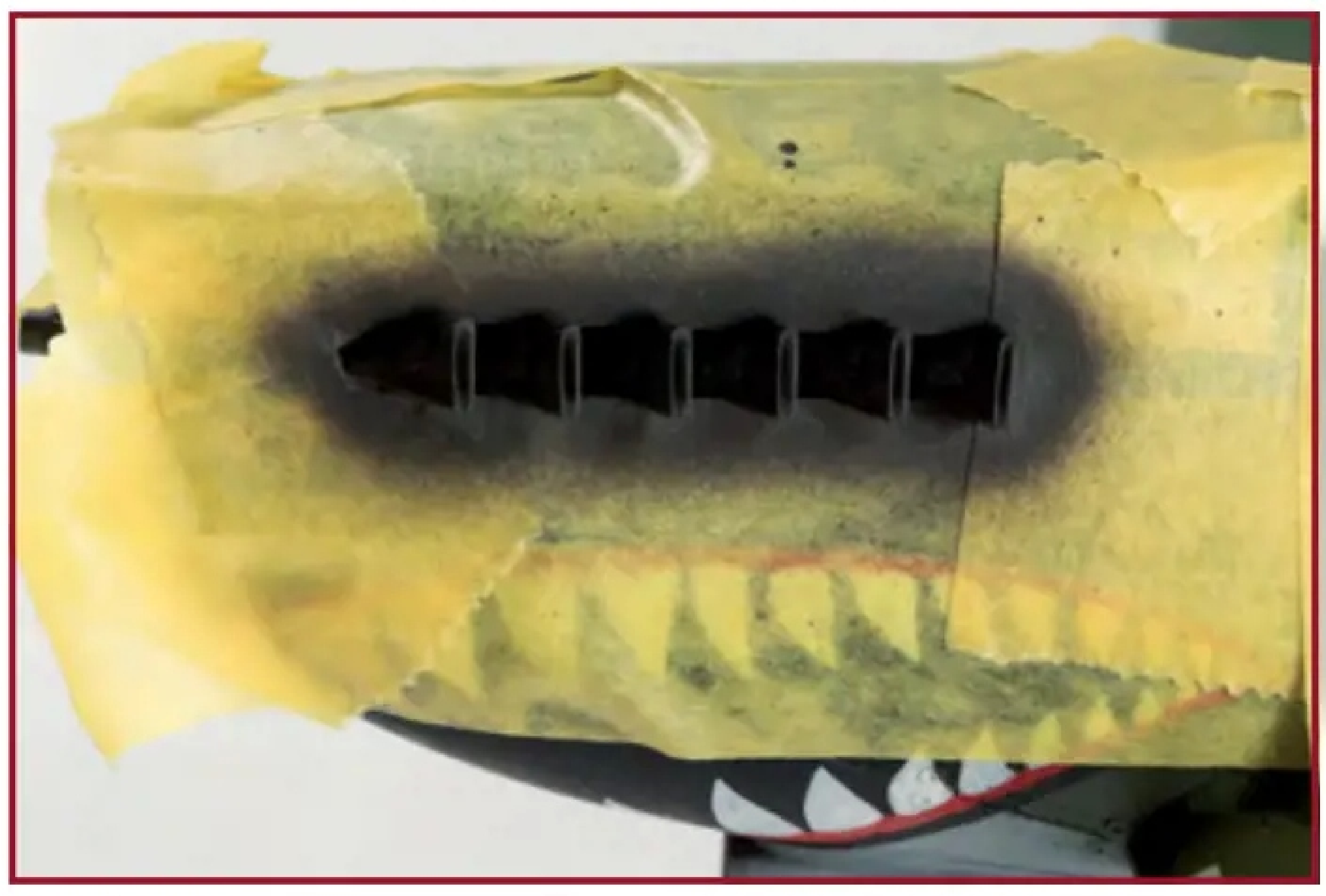
I elected not to bother with a clear coat prior to using decals as a smooth paint surface is the prerequisite for successful decal placement and silvering has nothing to do with whether the base surface is flat or glossy. I planned to use as few kit decals as possible since they are so thick. I purchased a set of stencil decals from Eduard, item D32016. These ▶



Masks of the serial codes were made as copies of the decal sheet



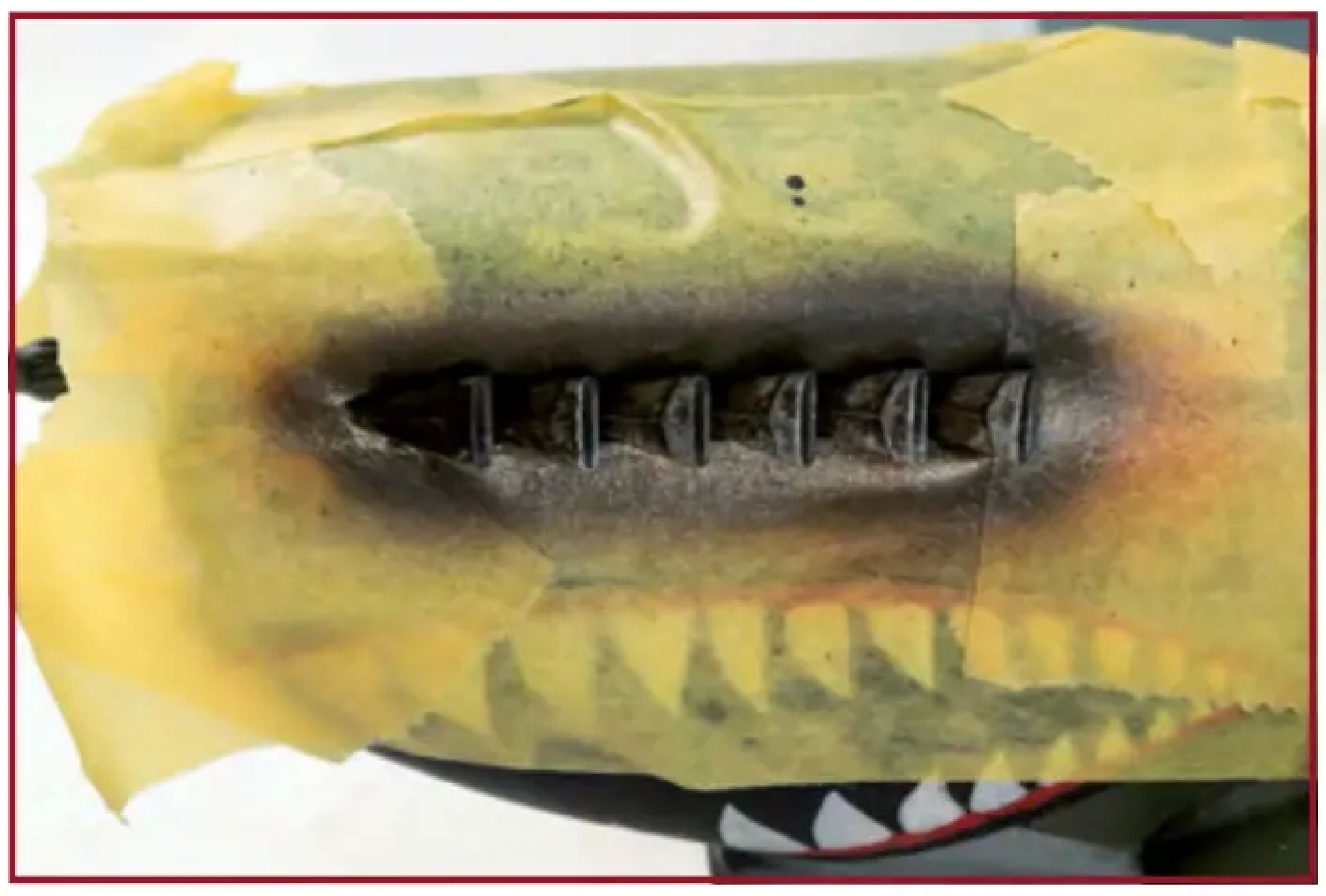
The serial codes were painted with LP-3. Meanwhile the white on the leading edge of the fin flash was rubbed back to expose the underlying red. Hairspray was used in a previous step to facilitate this process



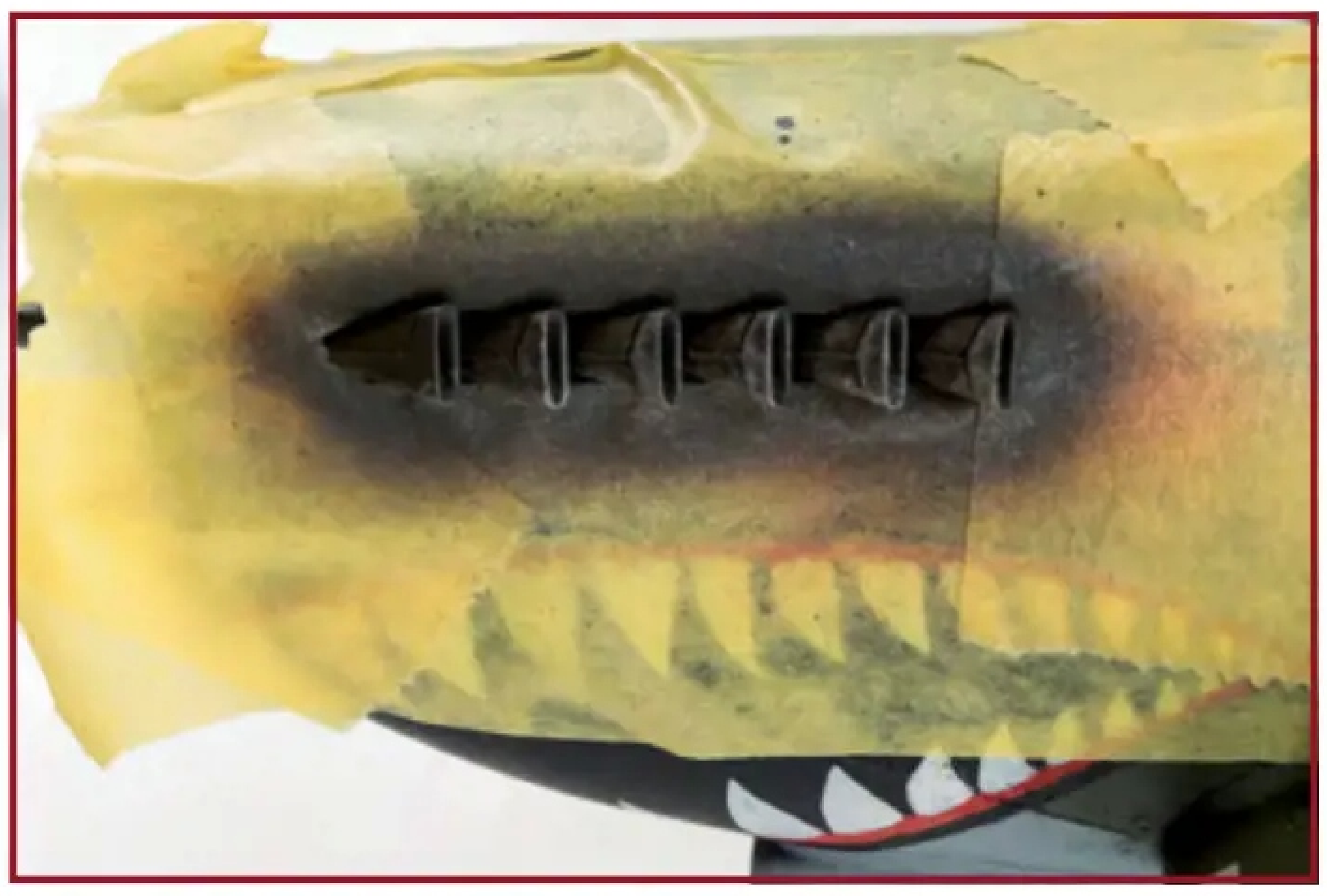
To paint the exhausts, the surrounds were masked and a base layer of XF-84 Dark Iron was airbrushed

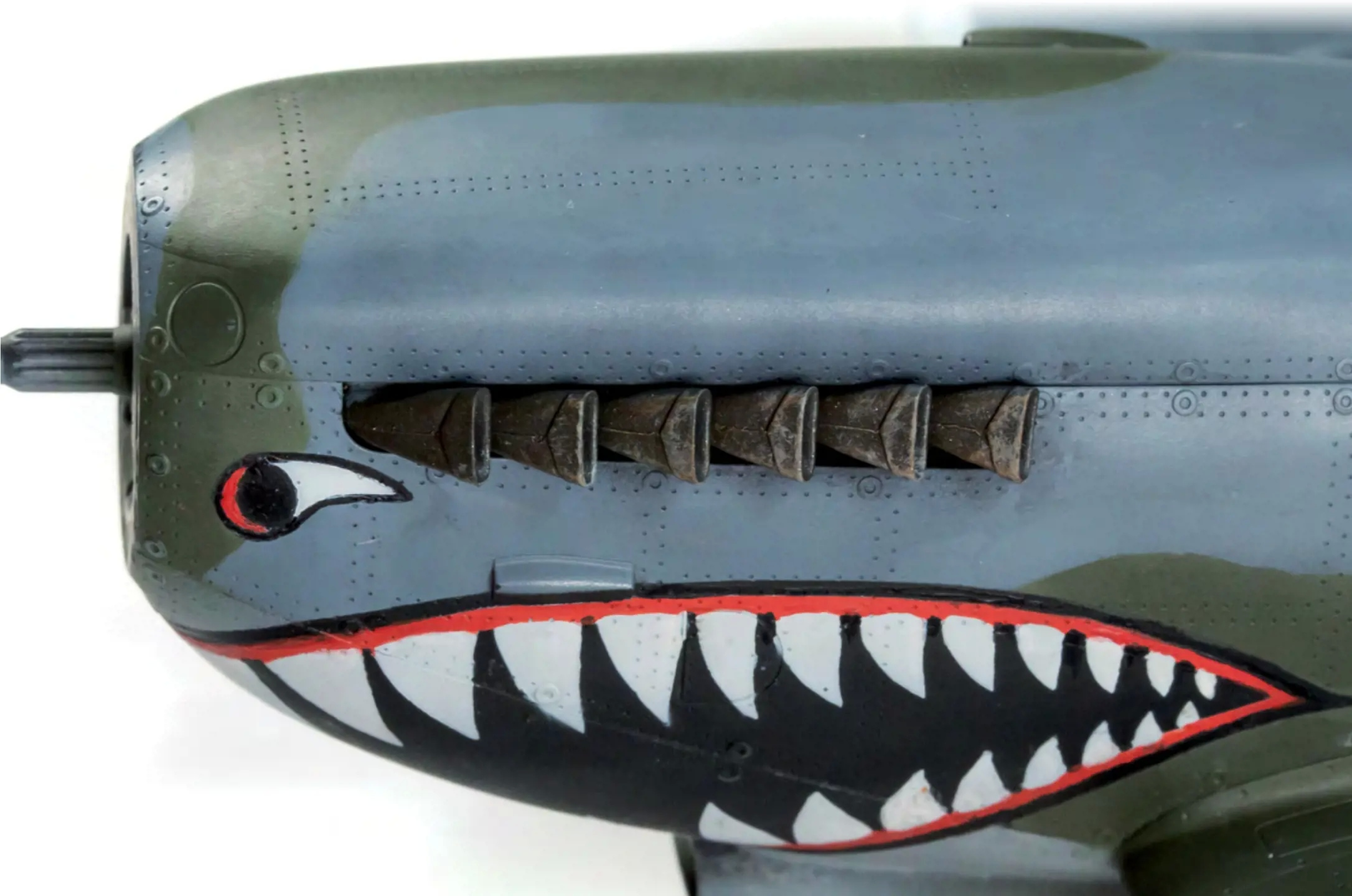
A light dusting of LP-44 Metallic Orange was airbrushed over the base colour

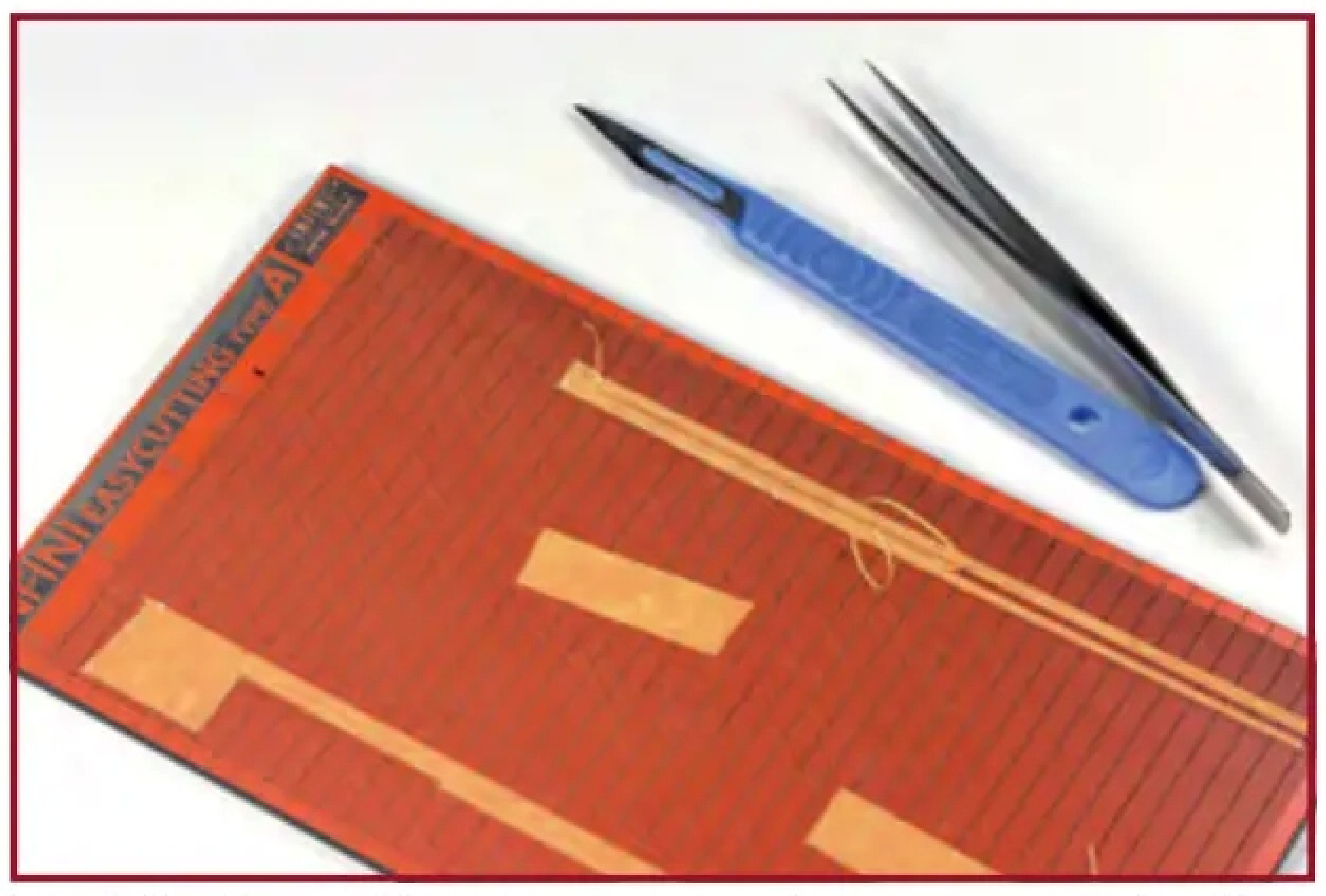
A mixture of XF-20 and XF-2 enamel was sparingly dry brushed over the second and subsequent exhausts



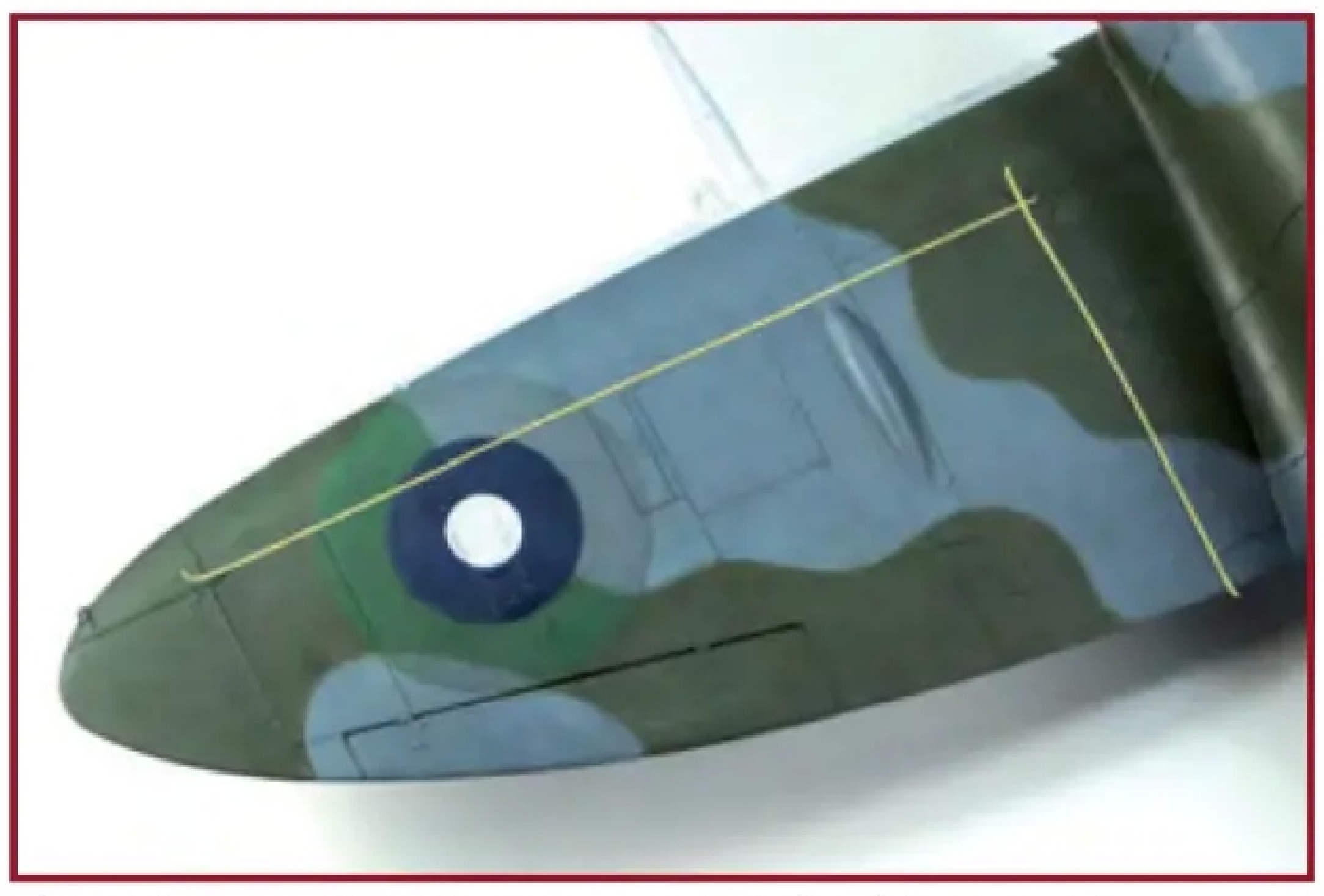
To blend the dry brushing effect and add the necessary flat finish, some XF-84 was mixed with Mr Color GX113 Flat Clear to finalise the exhaust paintwork







The Infini Easycutting Type A mat makes easy work of cutting thin strips to aid in painting the No Walk lines on the upper wing surfaces

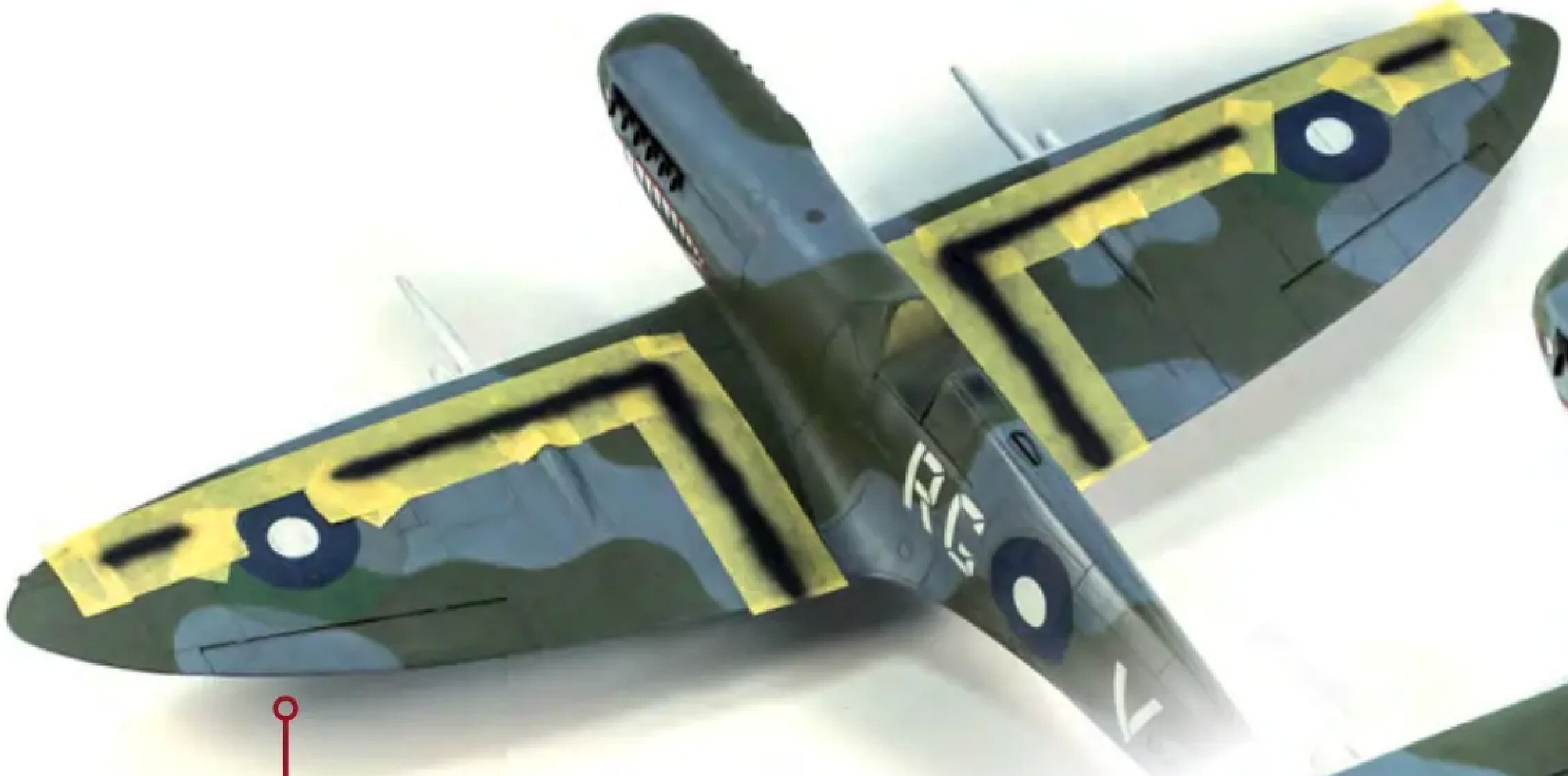


The strips are placed where needed. By this stage the overpainted green and grey areas had been revisited and improved to eliminate the yellowish show-through

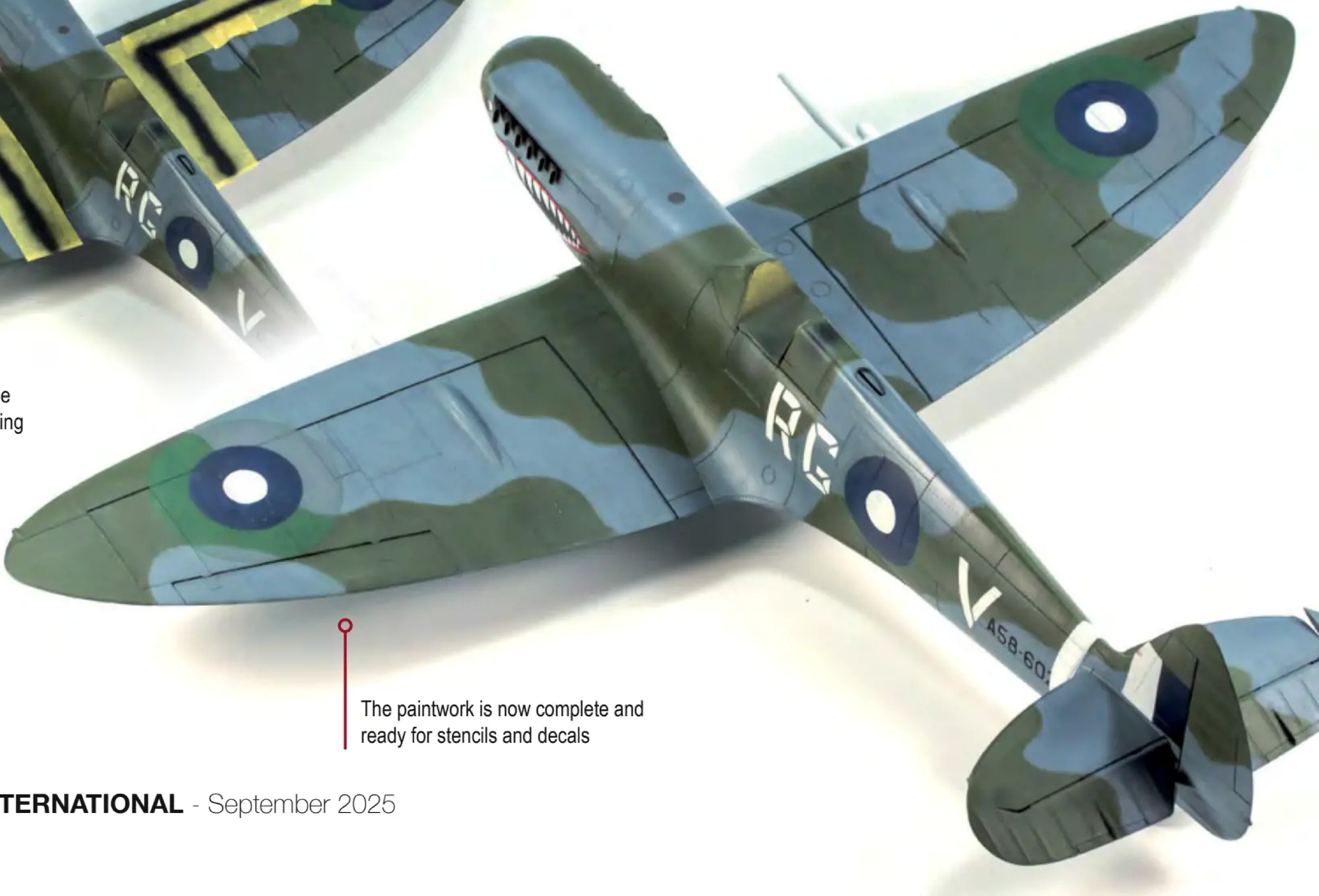
are the types of decal which are known for their accidental property of being amenable to carrier film removal much the same as wet transfers. There were however a small handful of markings for which I had no choice but to use what was in the kit. I used a new product for the Tamiya decals, VMS Set & Fix. I ran some experiments on unused decals and came up with the best solution which involved removing the decal off the backing in the usual way with warm water, then floating the decal on a puddle of the Set & Fix for twenty minutes prior to laying down onto the model. I can't find any evidence that this product has any softening effect but the decals definitely behaved more like thinner examples and disappeared onto the surface far more willingly than normal. Following a spot coat of Solvaset then a finish of VMS Satin varnish, there was absolutely no evidence of carrier film thickness or silvering. Taming thick Tamiya decals was a revelation and felt like cracking a code.

My plan with the Eduard decals was to place them, allow them to dry then peel off the top layer of carrier film. I had done this successfully in the past but for whatever reason I was having trouble this time around so rather than risk damaging the paint surface or lifting printed detail off along with the carrier film, I ran a test on my paint mule on how the decals would perform by sealing with VMS Satin. The test was successful in that the carrier films could be made to completely disappear. So after placing all the stencil decals on the model, I coated them all with spot applications of VMS Satin. Once dry, I noticed that the Eduard decal carrier film failed to conform into panel lines and rivets, so much so that these details completely disappeared. To try to improve this, I ran a fine craft saw along a panel line going through a decal and instead of creating a neat line, it just disrupted the carrier film and caused it's weak bond to the model surface to lift. This was potentially a disaster as it looked like a horrible mess. I decided the carrier film needed to be removed on that decal and to my surprise, it came away very easily with no effect whatsoever on the printed detail. So I was back into experiment mode, and with this one decal I gently sanded the edge where the carrier film met the varnish edges to reduce the effect of the step in thickness, and reapplied a coat of VMS Satin to that area. The result was such a great success that I felt I needed to copy the process across to all the other Eduard decals. It wasn't difficult at all to prize the carrier film away as it's adhesion to the model surface was virtually non-existent, and the varnish gave the carrier film the necessary strength to make film removal much more straightforward. Once again, this project yielded a happy accidental discovery.

With the decals complete, the entire model was given a coat of VMS Satin. Meanwhile I set about completing some smaller details for the tail end of the project. The 250 lb bombs were previously assembled and painted in XF-62 Olive Drab. To give them a significantly worn and dirty appearance, a sponge was used to dry-dab XF-49 Khaki, XF-4 and XF-89 variously until the a good effect was created. Kit decals were then used, using the same products and protocols as previously to help them conform, before further sponging was done to blend them in. A final coat of VMS Matt completed them ready for installation. At the same time, the reflective surface for the pilot's rear vision mirror was created by using a disposable 2.5mm biopsy punch to cut a circle from self-adhesive chrome tape sold as a car trim detailing product. This proved a simple and very effective solution. The sliding canopy was then prepared for placement by removing the longitudinal mould seam. First, an SMS ceramic scraper was used to remove the seam followed by the range of Infini soft sanding sticks up to 4000. Finally, Tamiya polishing compounds in Coarse, Fine and Finish restored the sliding canopy to crystal clear and shiny. The canopy was then masked and painted to match the rest of the glazed parts and finally the PE handle was cemented on with CA.



Using the strips as guides, the outline masking is applied using Tamiya tape in 18mm width followed by airbrushing LP-3

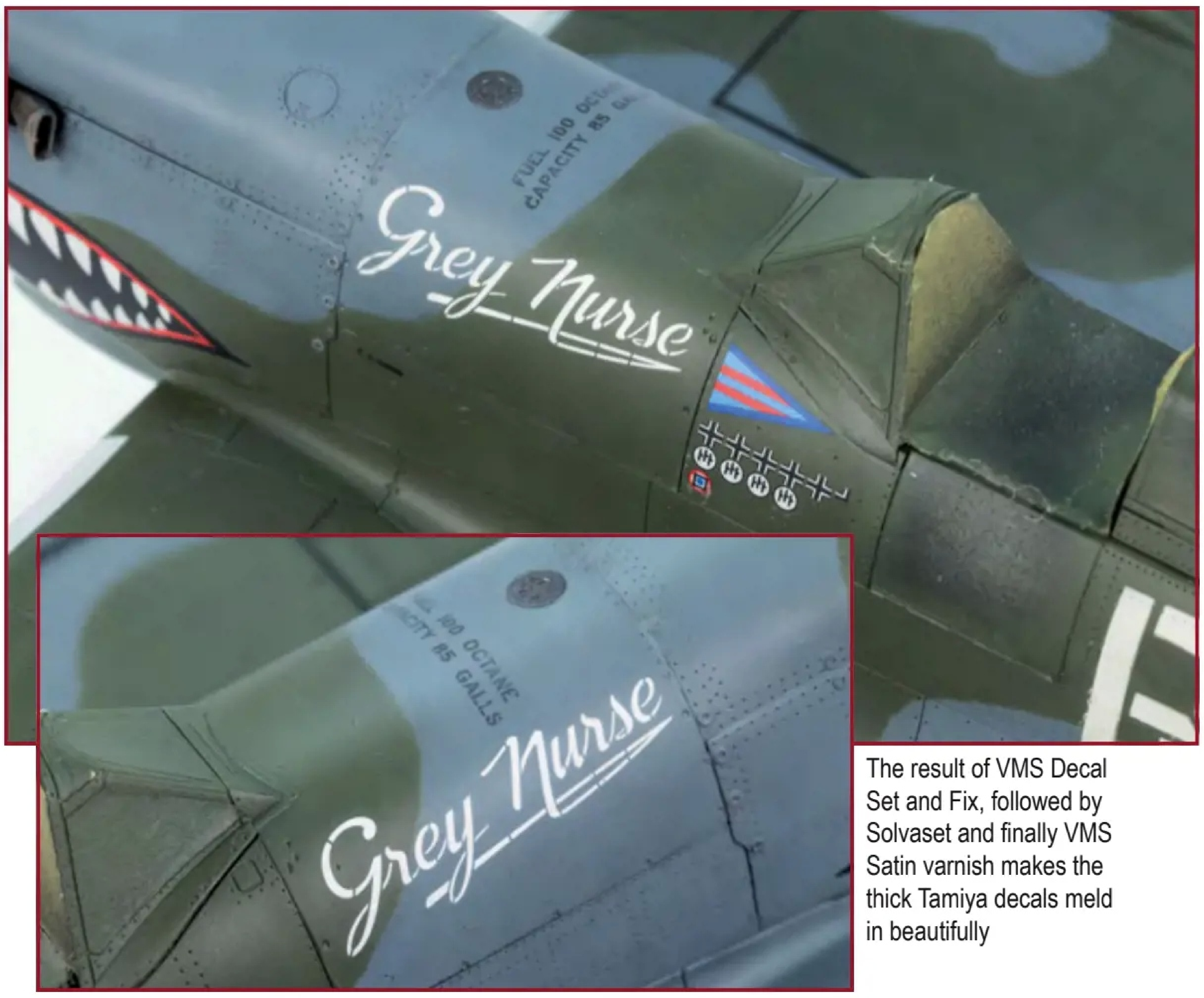


The paintwork is now complete and ready for stencils and decals

I chose to use a new product, VMS Decal Set and Fix, in an effort to help with Tamiya's thick decals

DECAL
SET & FIX
VARNISH HD
XXL SATIN

The model was not gloss coated prior to placement of these decals. Instead, the VMS product was used, followed by Solvaset to help them settle in and finally VMS Satin varnish which then makes the carrier film all but invisible



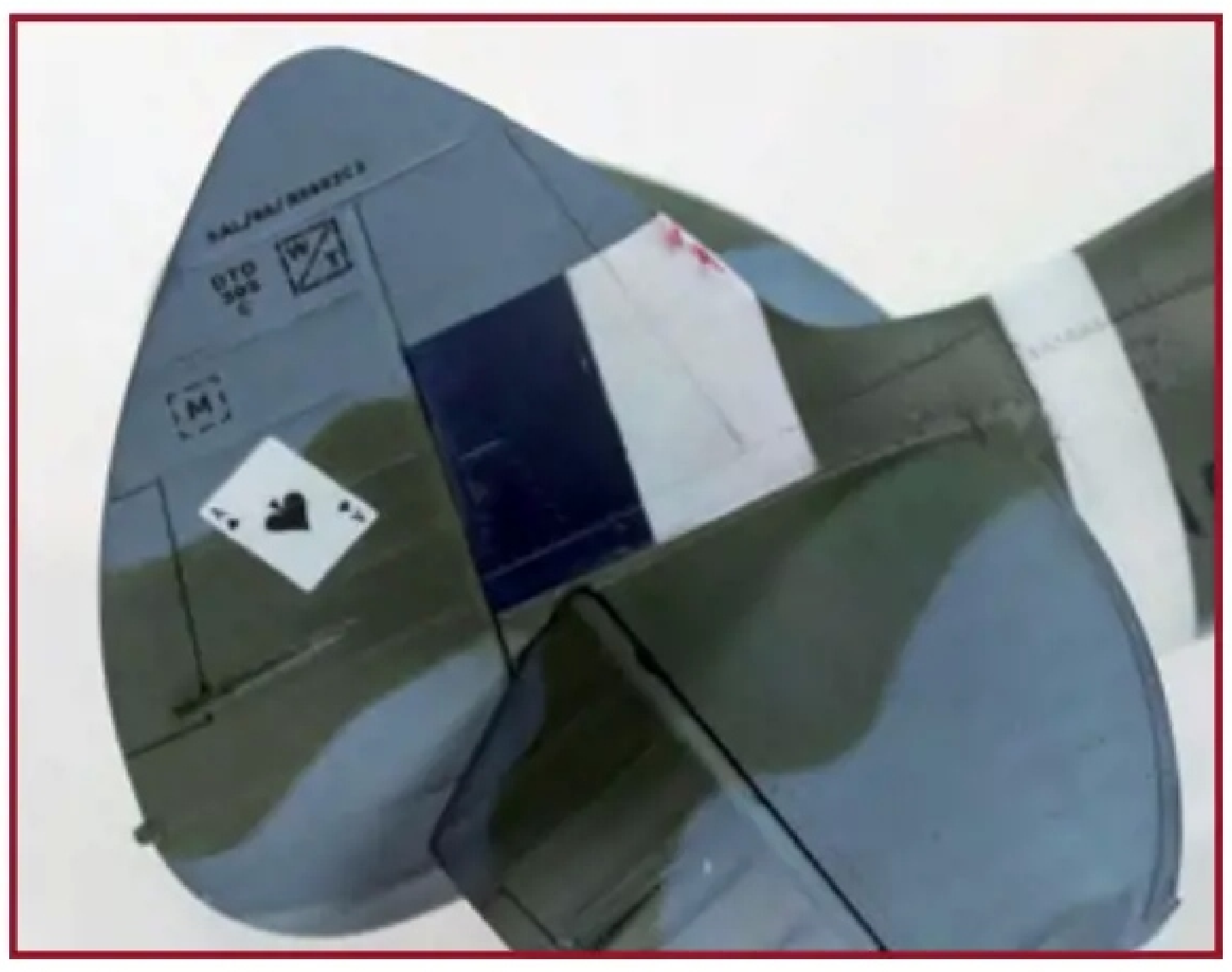
The result of VMS Decal Set and Fix, followed by Solvaset and finally VMS Satin varnish makes the thick Tamiya decals meld in beautifully

WEATHERING

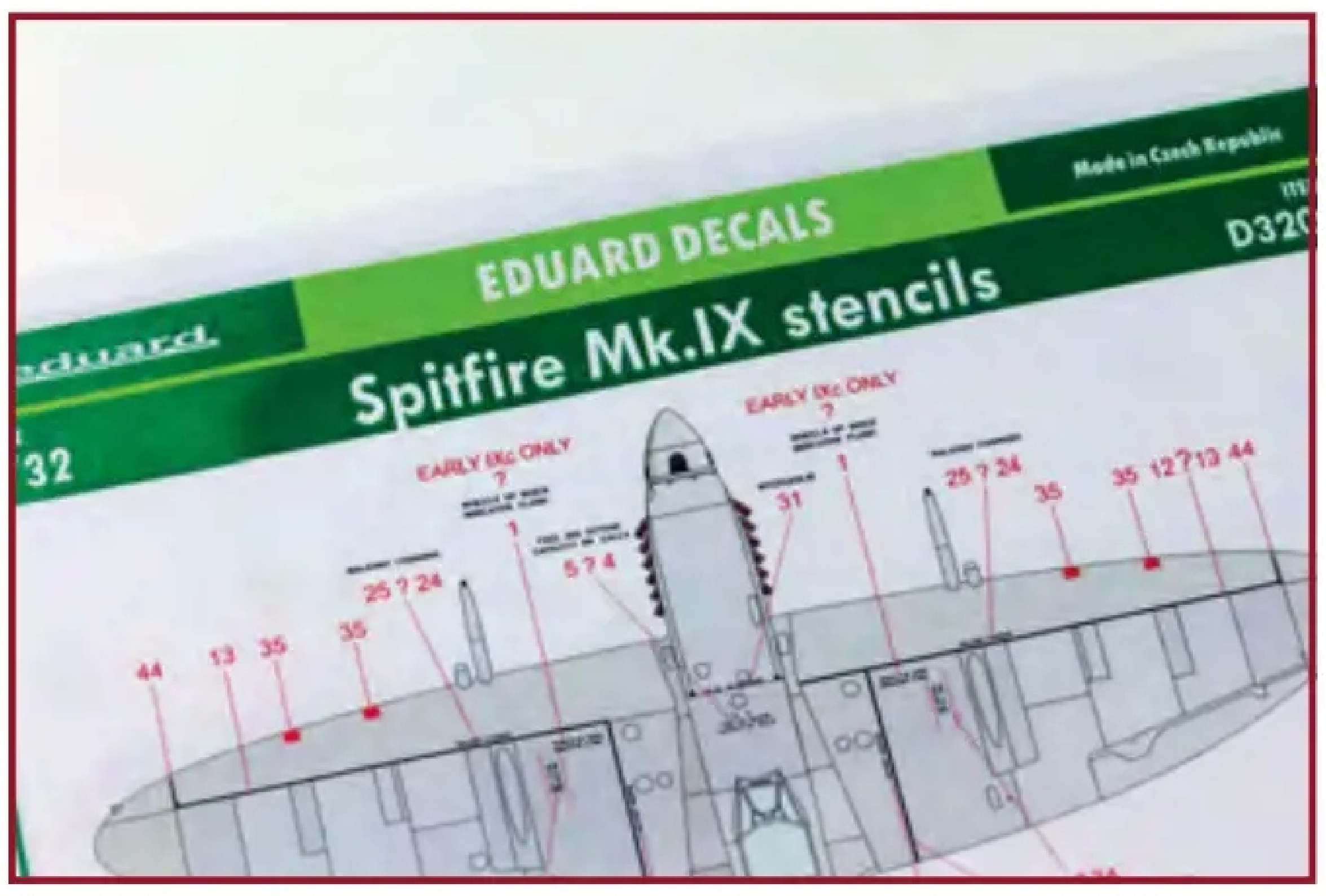
To commence the weathering process, I started with chipping around the wing roots. I elected to use silver oil paint from a Mig of Ammo Oil Brusher as it would give me more flexibility to easily remove or blend the paint as required. It was applied with combinations of toothpick, fine brush and metal probe. Chips were then added to the wing leading edges using camouflage colour paints, again with brush, toothpicks and probes. Very gentle sanding also helped in this area to expose the underlying colours and blend the wearing effects. To add grime and dirt around panels, Mr Weathering Color in Multi Black, Shade Brown, Stain Brown and Matt Umber were used. Combinations of these shades were added around panel lines and rivets and worked with various amounts of odourless solvent according to the desired effect. More solvent helps create diffuse shadows and panel line washes, whereas less solvent helps the product stay where it placed and retain localised colour density. The three brown shades are excellent for brush-flicking and creating spot stains that dry as very subtle marks. Using the different shades helps to create a more convincing weathering story as it would be implausible to have just one shade of dirt and grime over the entire aircraft.

Regular oil paints in black, burnt umber and white were then used for various effects, either in their pure shades or mixed. The paints were used on a piece of cardboard to leach the excess oil and help dry the paint. Firstly I used these oil paints in various colour mixes to add streaks all over the airframe, by placing small dots and using odourless solvent to carry the colour in the direction of airflow. I kept this process going until the effect was obvious but not overdone. Oil stains on the undersurfaces were then created by using black and burnt umber oil paints and odourless solvent to create streaks which taper out until ▶

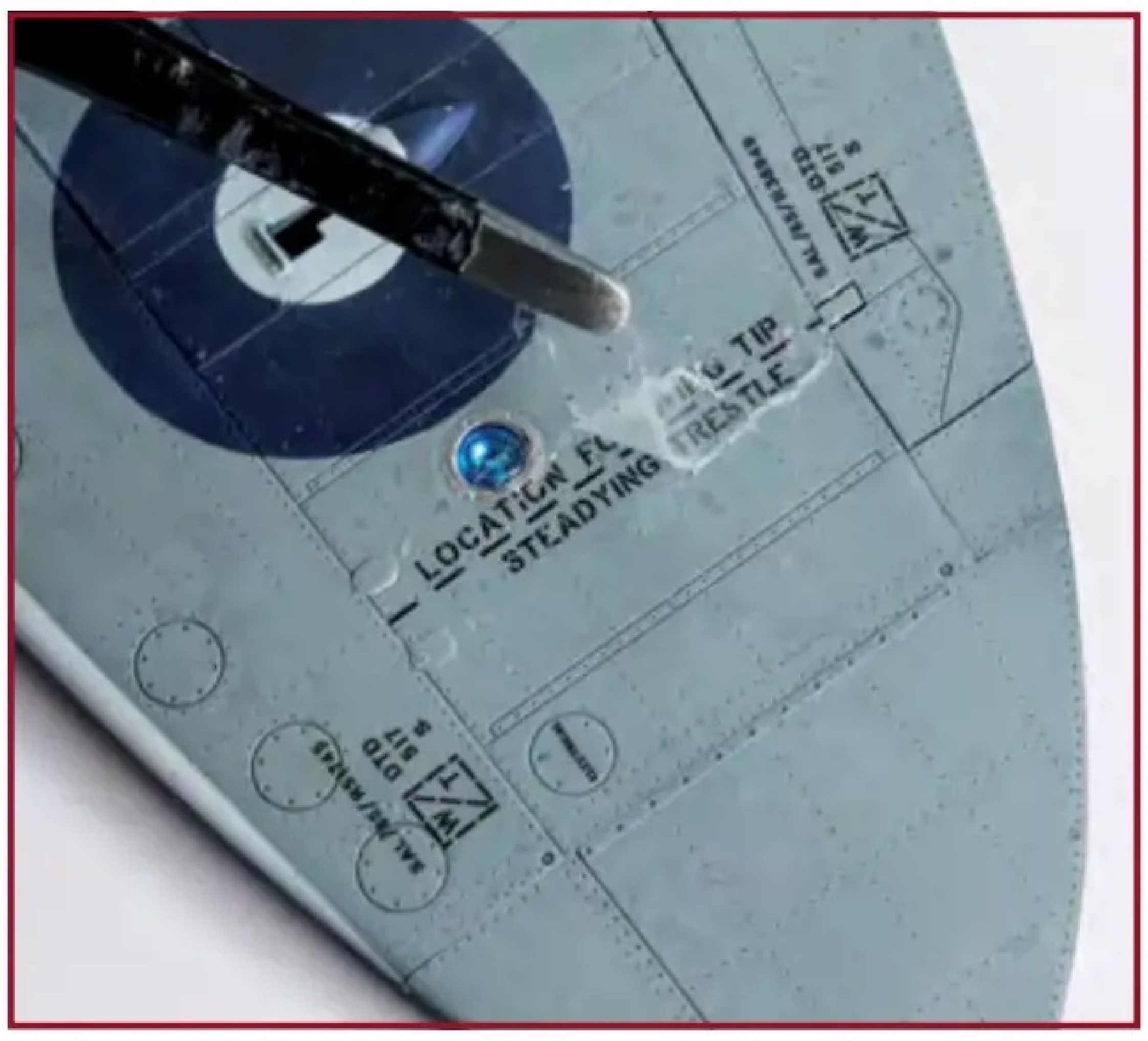
> ***"I elected not to bother with a clear coat prior to using decals as a smooth paint surface is the prerequisite for successful decal placement and silvering has nothing to do with whether the base surface is flat or glossy."***



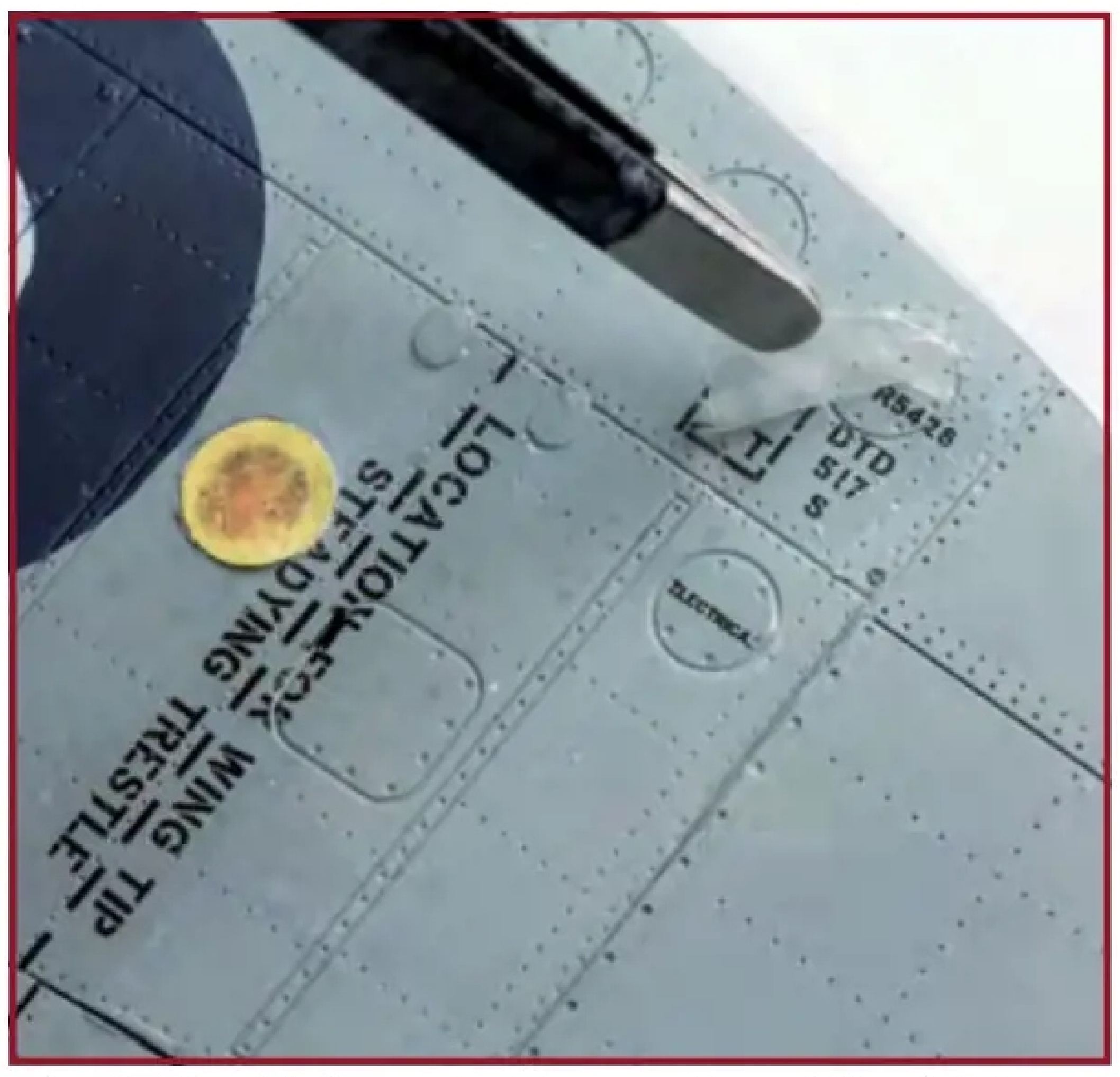
The Ace of Spades is also a kit decal, and was placed deliberately upside down to copy the kit instructions and references



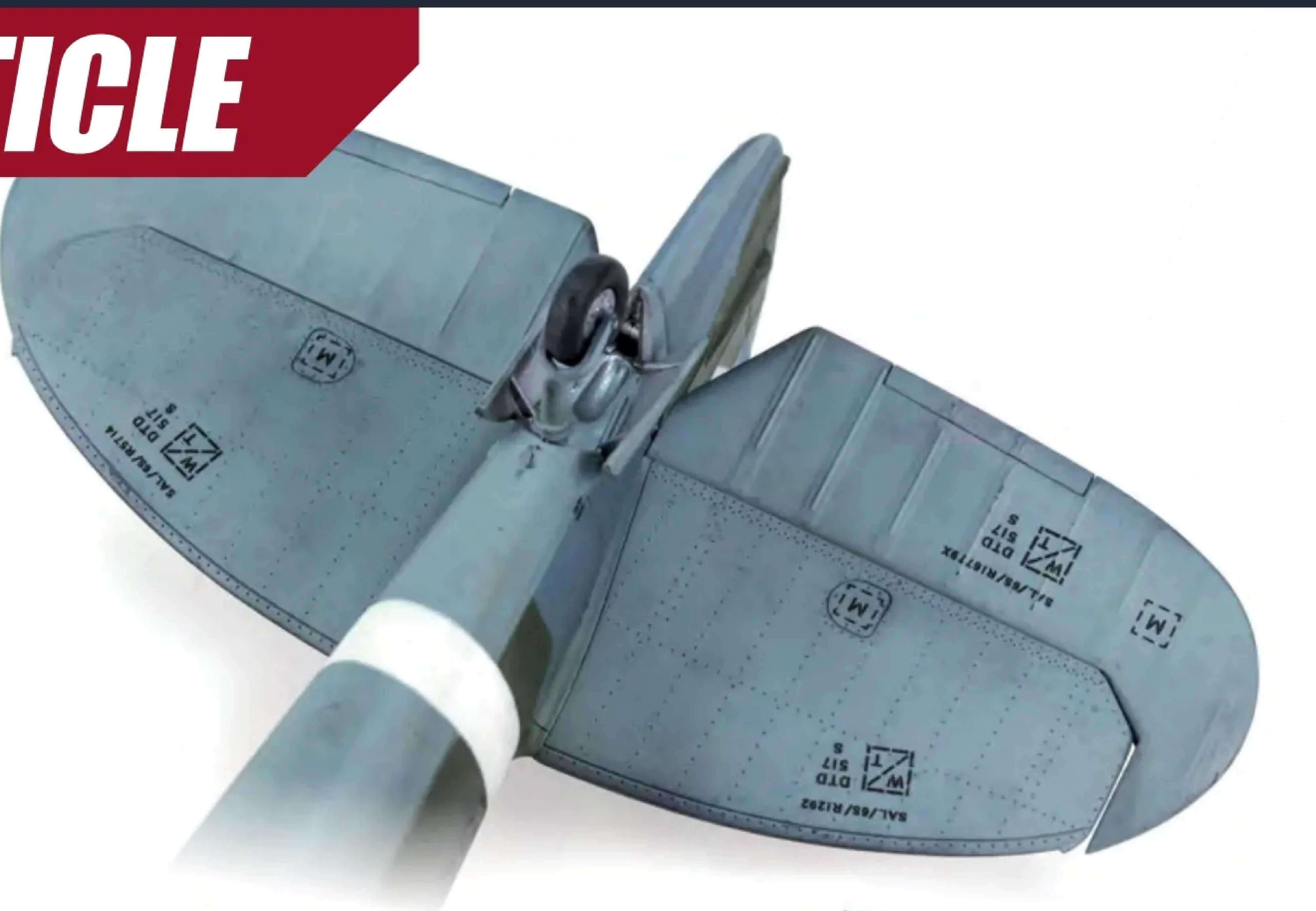
For all the smaller stencils, I opted for Eduard's item D32016. My plan was to place them and remove the carrier film in the same manner as HGW's wet transfers

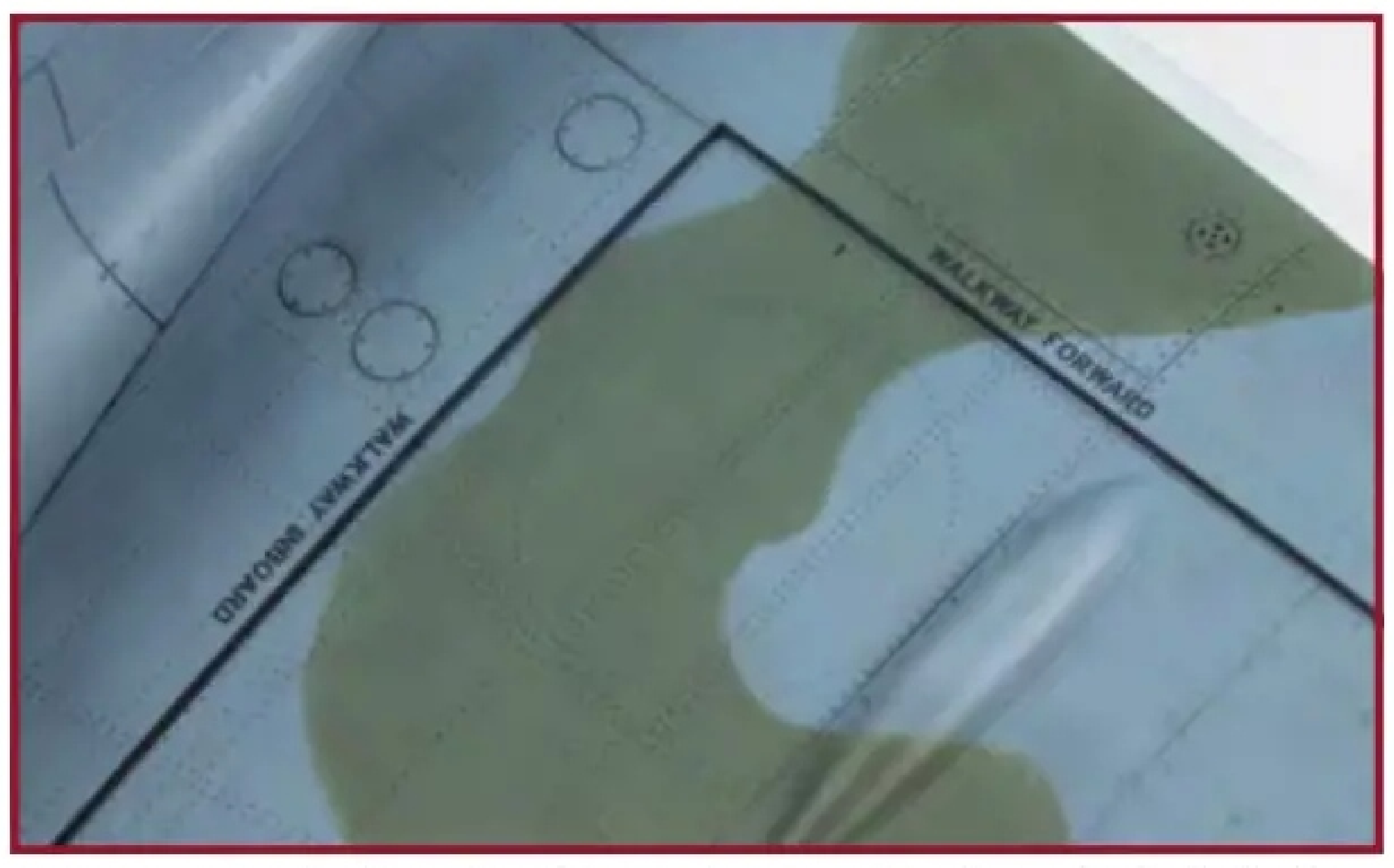


Having had difficulty removing the carrier films, I opted to leave them in place. They disappeared nicely under VMS satin varnish, however the carrier film didn't settle into panel lines and depressions. When I tried to help this after the varnish has set, the carrier film began to peel away. There was no option but to go ahead and remove it completely



I decided to pick the carrier film away from all the decals, which was infinitely easier with a layer of varnish on top. This was a wonderful accidental discovery





After removal of carrier film and re-application of VMS Satin varnish, the stencils looked painted-on

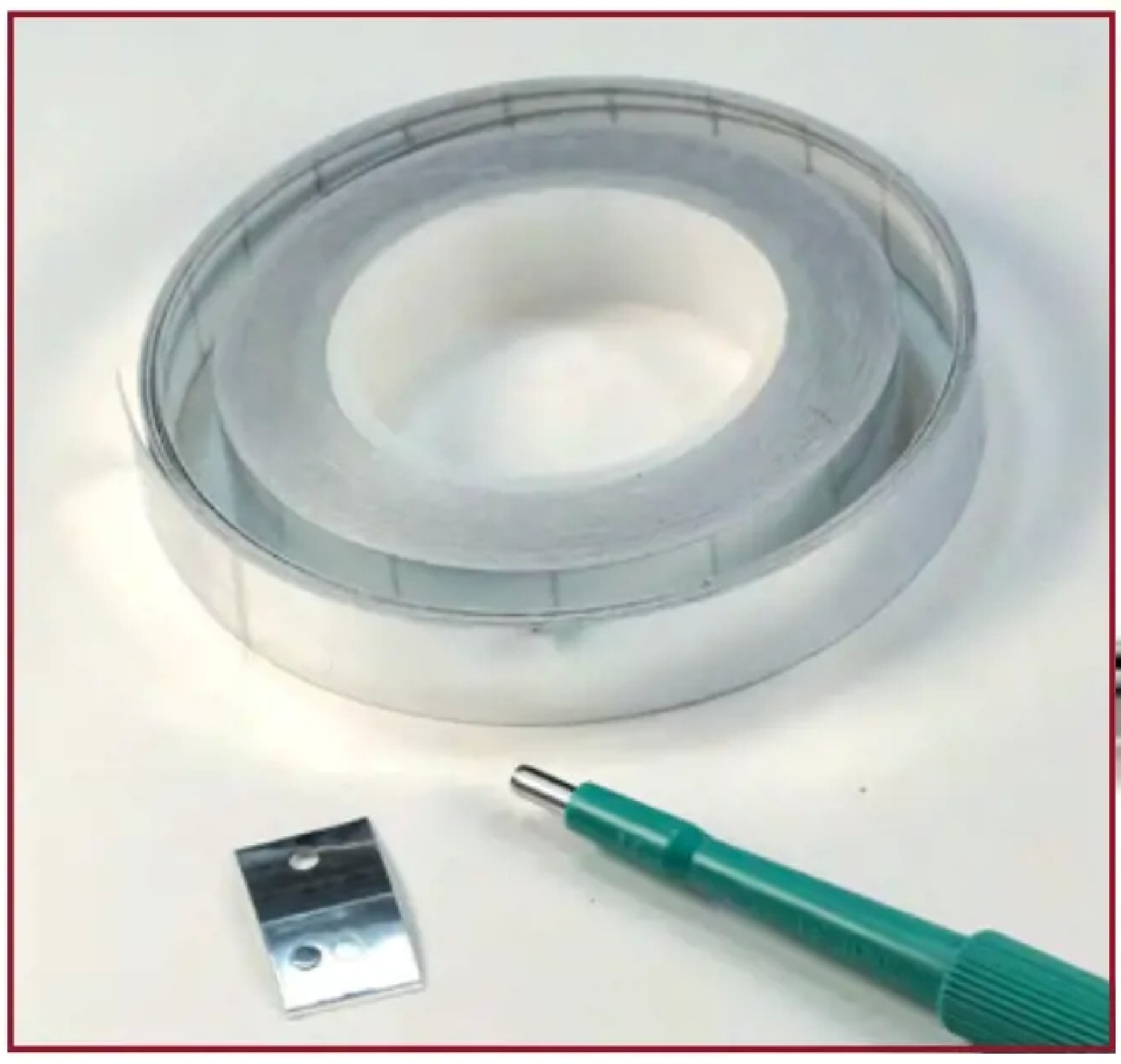
they disappear. At this point I had to make a decision about whether to show the stains in their full glory, or mostly cover them up with the drop tank. Ultimately I went with the drop tank, just to add more interest and to offset the bombs which would also be installed later.

Fuel stains were added by dry brushing burnt umber and dabbing with a cotton dip barely damp with solvent. The process was continually repeated until the result looked authentic. Dry brushing is effective in areas such as the fuel tank as the surface needs to shows deeper stain that the overt current fuel stain presently visible, to suggest a long history of fuel spillage. Exhaust stains were done using dry brushing of oil paints, initially using a mixture of burnt umber and black, using less paint on the brush than more to allow the effect to be slowly built up and therefore allow control. While working with the same shade, I added cordite trails from the gun ports, again trying to remain restrained. Using a very light grey mix and again dry brushing, the central portions of the exhaust trails were dabbed and tapered along the length of the trail, to added the characteristic lighter portion caused by lead in the fuel.

With the gun port staining done, I added the red kit decals over the those areas as required, with a view to coating them with an additional layer to remove the appearance of a decal. I experimented with something I happened to have on hand, saxophone pad-cleaning paper. This was very thin and had the texture I was looking for. Cigarette paper would have worked well too. I airbrushed a sheet of the paper with XF-7, then cut pieces to exactly match the decal sizes. To apply them I soaked the paper pieces in a water mix of Mig of Ammo Ultra Glue. Once laid down and dry, I touched them up with very sparing amounts of Vallejo Model Color Black Red, which gave a dull red tone which I thought looked better than a brighter pure red.

The 250 lb bombs were painted using XF-62 Olive Drab followed by sponge stippling with combinations of XF-4 Yellow Green, XF-49 Khaki and XF-89 Dark Green 2

After placement of kit decals following similar protocols as the others, and coating with VMS Matt varnish the bombs were ready

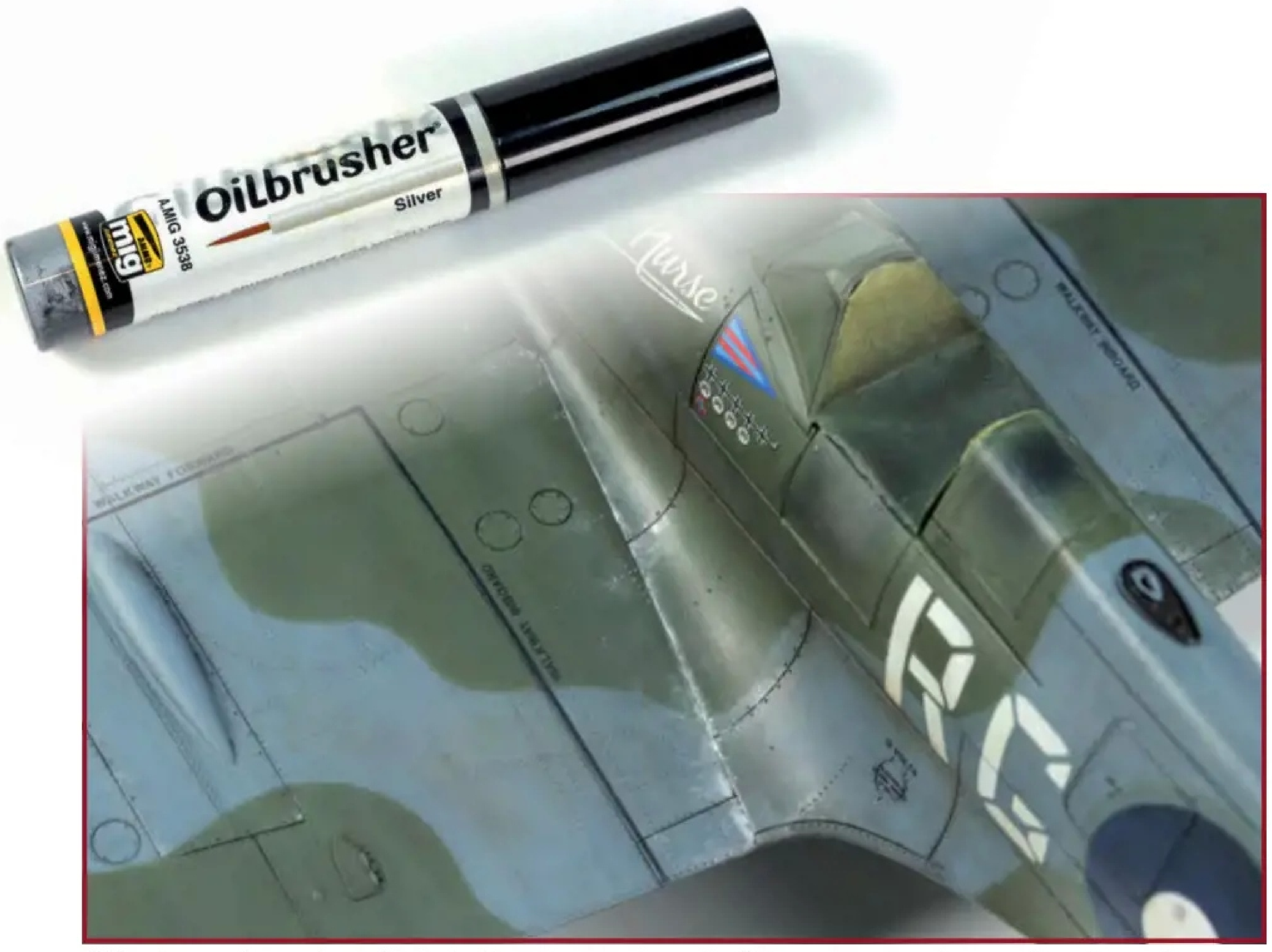


To produce the rear-vision mirror surface, a 2.5mm disposable biopsy punch was used to cut circles from chrome automotive trim tape

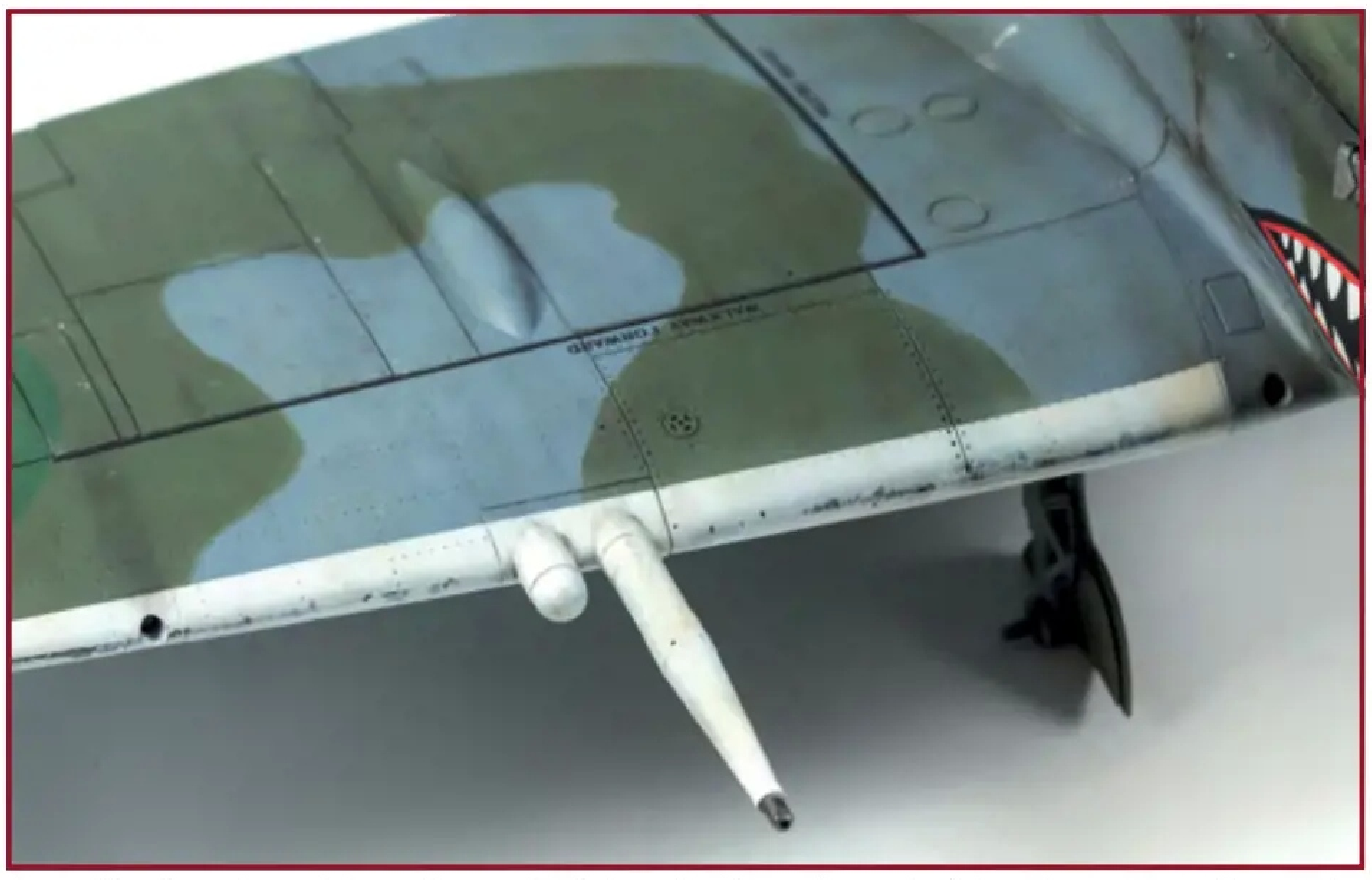
The seam along the midline of the sliding canopy was removed with a ceramic scraper and sanded smooth

Infini soft sanding sticks and GodHand sanding blocks worked through all the grades restored the canopy to a very smooth and shiny finish

Tamiya polishing compounds were used to perfect the surface of the sliding canopy


Oilbrusher
Silver
AMIG 3538

Chipping and wearing effects to the wing roots and other areas was done using silver oil paint taken from the Mig of Ammo Oil Brusher. I chose oils since they are easily removed and manipulated as needed



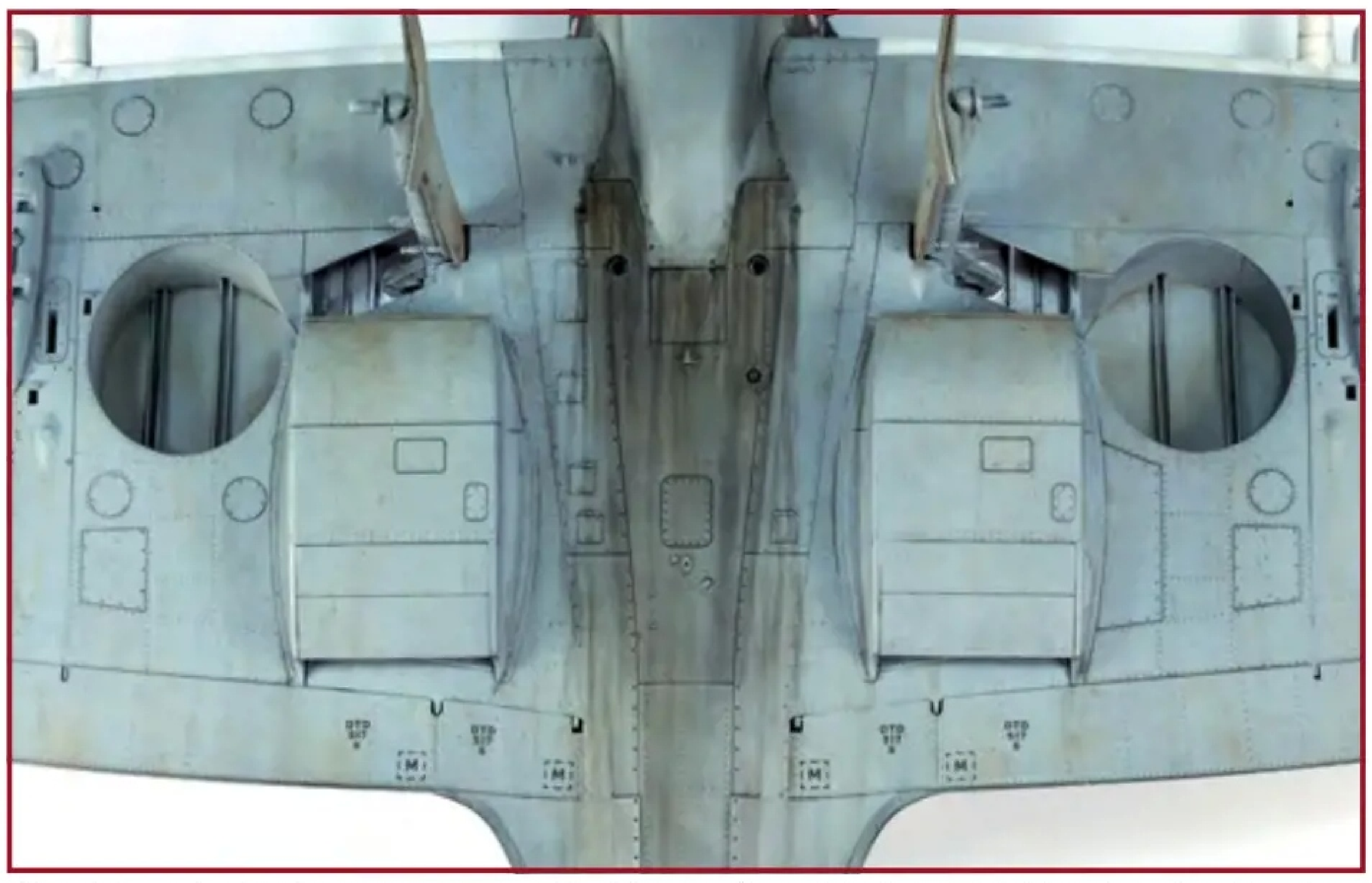
A combination of careful sanding and paint application using a dental probe was used to create chipping and wearing of the leading edges

WC01
WC18
WC03
WC17
Mr.WEATHERING COLOR
FOR REALISTIC MODELING

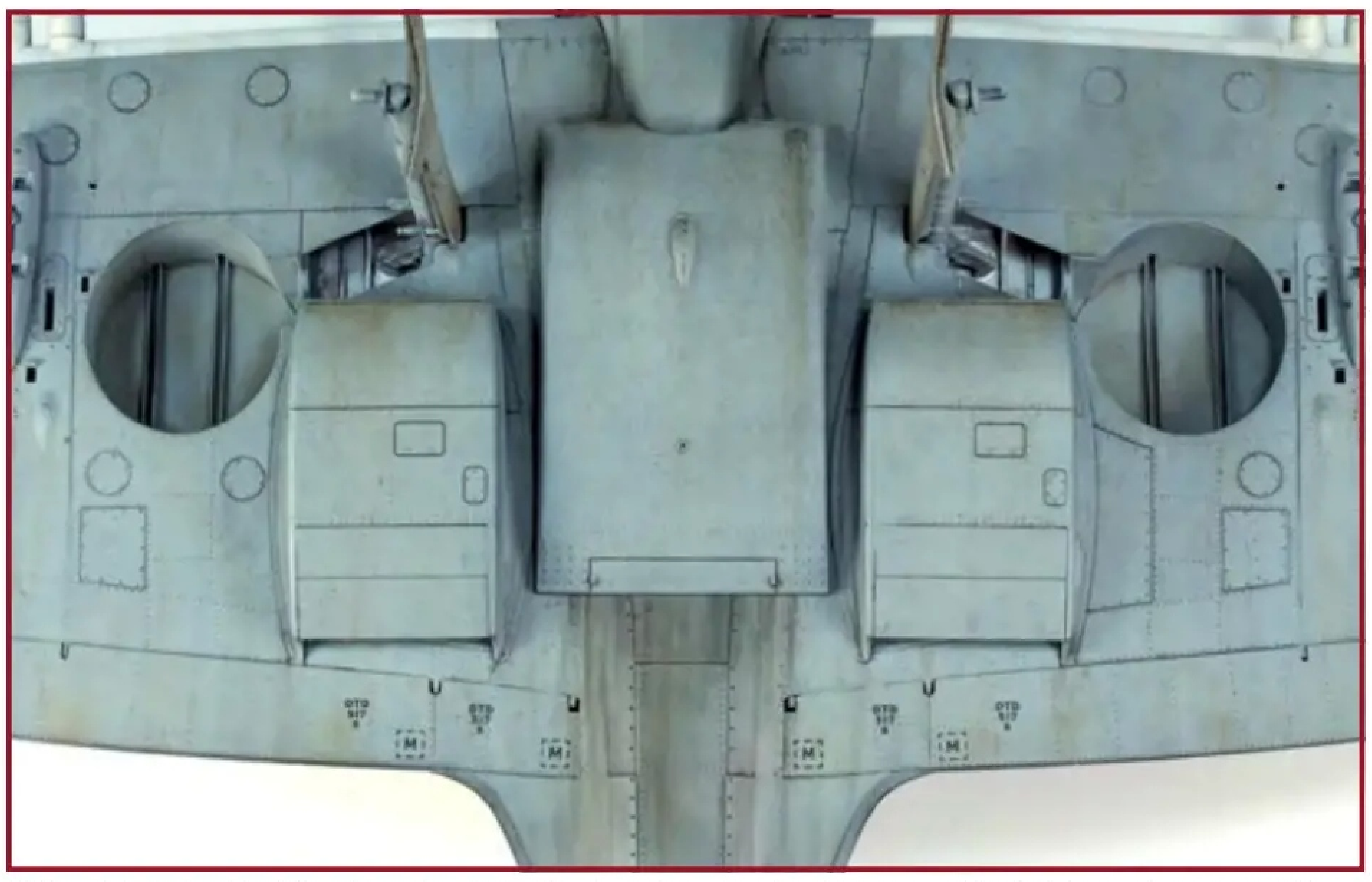
Mr Weathering Color in Multi Black, Stain Brown, Shade Brown and Matt Umber were used in combination with odourless solvent was very useful for shading effects around panel lines and for creating subtle splatter in different shades

WINSOR & NEWTON
WINTON OIL COLOUR
DALER ROWNEY
Georgian
Georgian

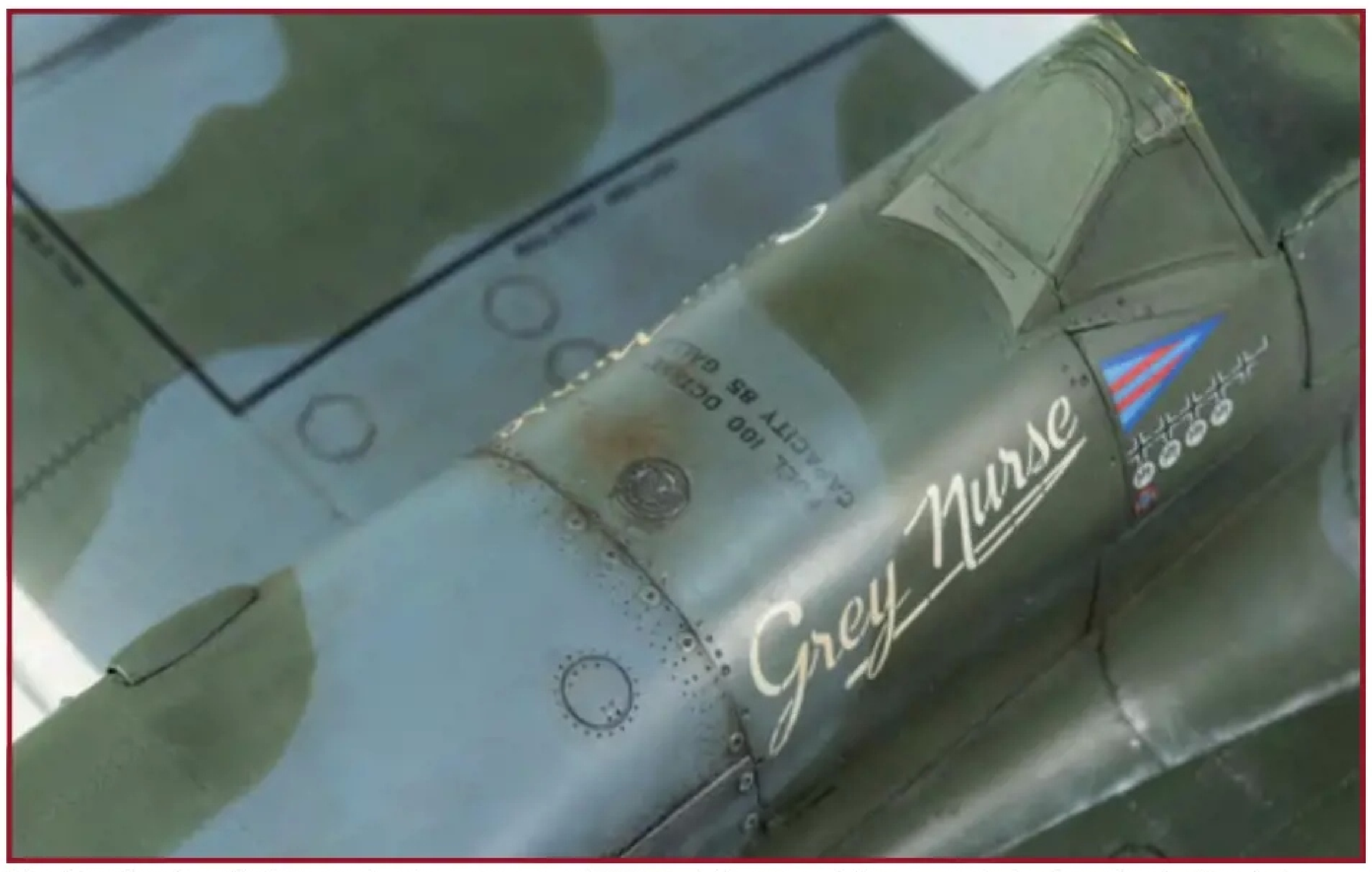
Oil paints in burnt umber, black and white were used both straight and mixed in different combinations to add shading where required. Dispensing onto cardboard leaches the oil out and allows dry brushing, which is very effective for adding shade, grime and dirt effects



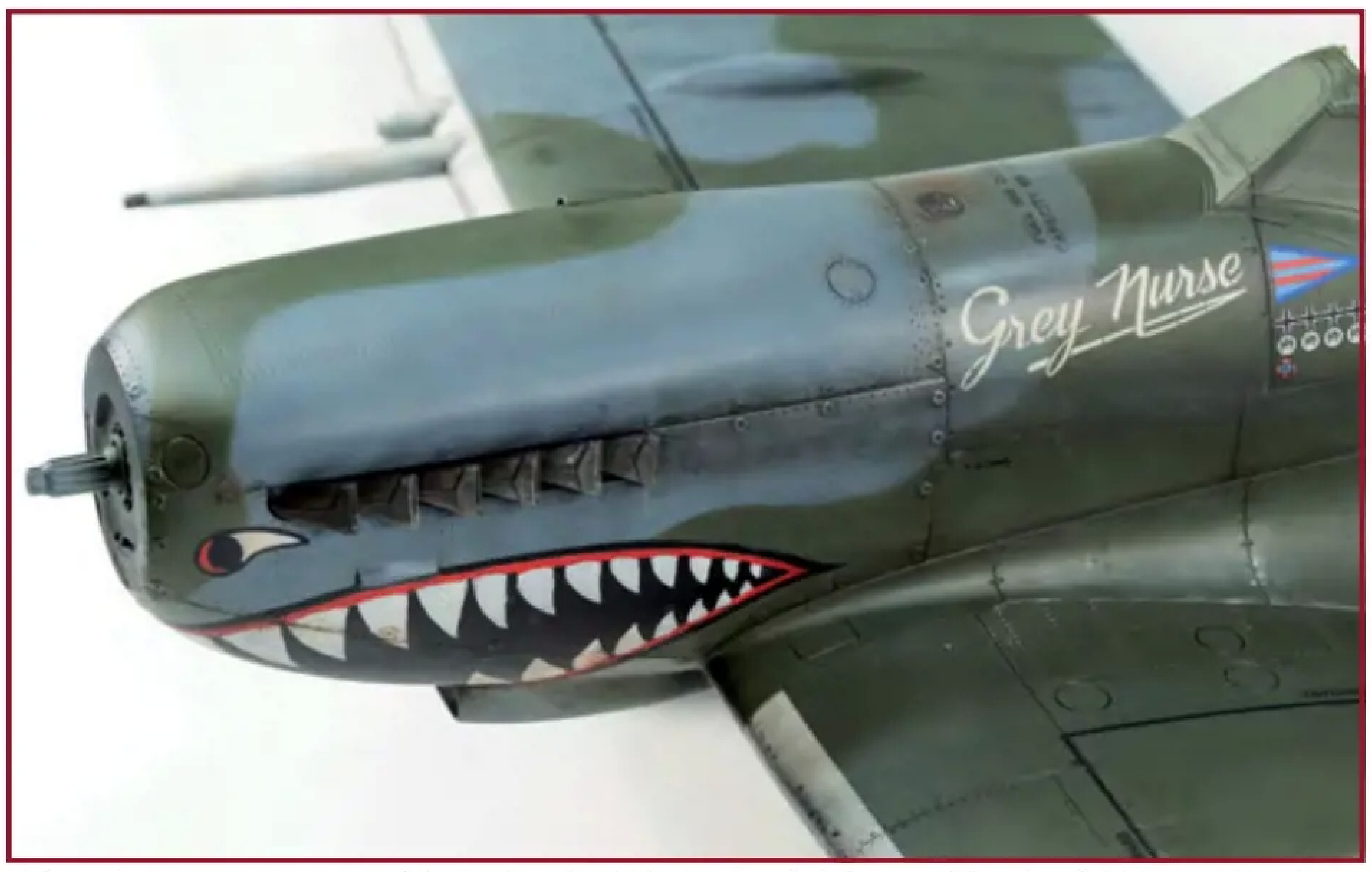
Oil paints and odourless solvent were ideal for creating oil leakage. I deliberated about leaving the drop tank off as I felt it might be a shame to hide these stains



Ultimately I decided to place the drop tank as the oil streaks were still visible and more subtle which is my preference

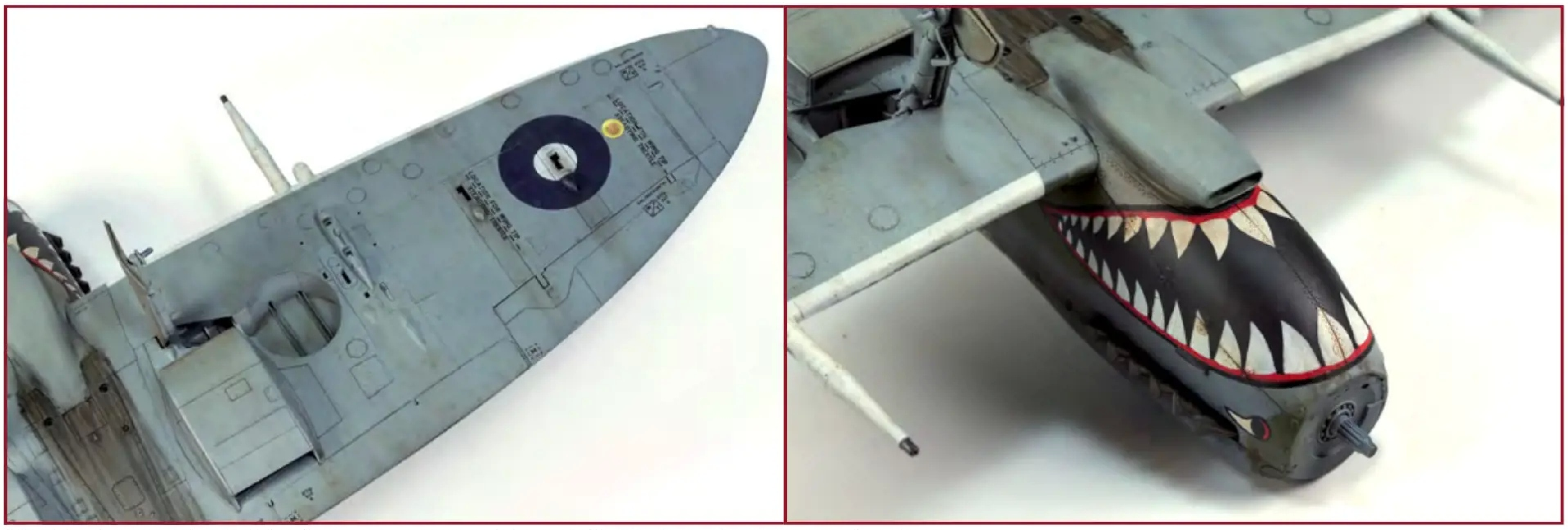


Mr Weathering Color products were used around the panel lines, and dry brushed oil paints around the fuel tank mimicked fuel stains



Exhaust stains were done with dry brushed black oil paint, followed by dry-dabbing white oil paint over the top

Tamiya 1:32 Spitfire Mk VIII • Kit No. 60320

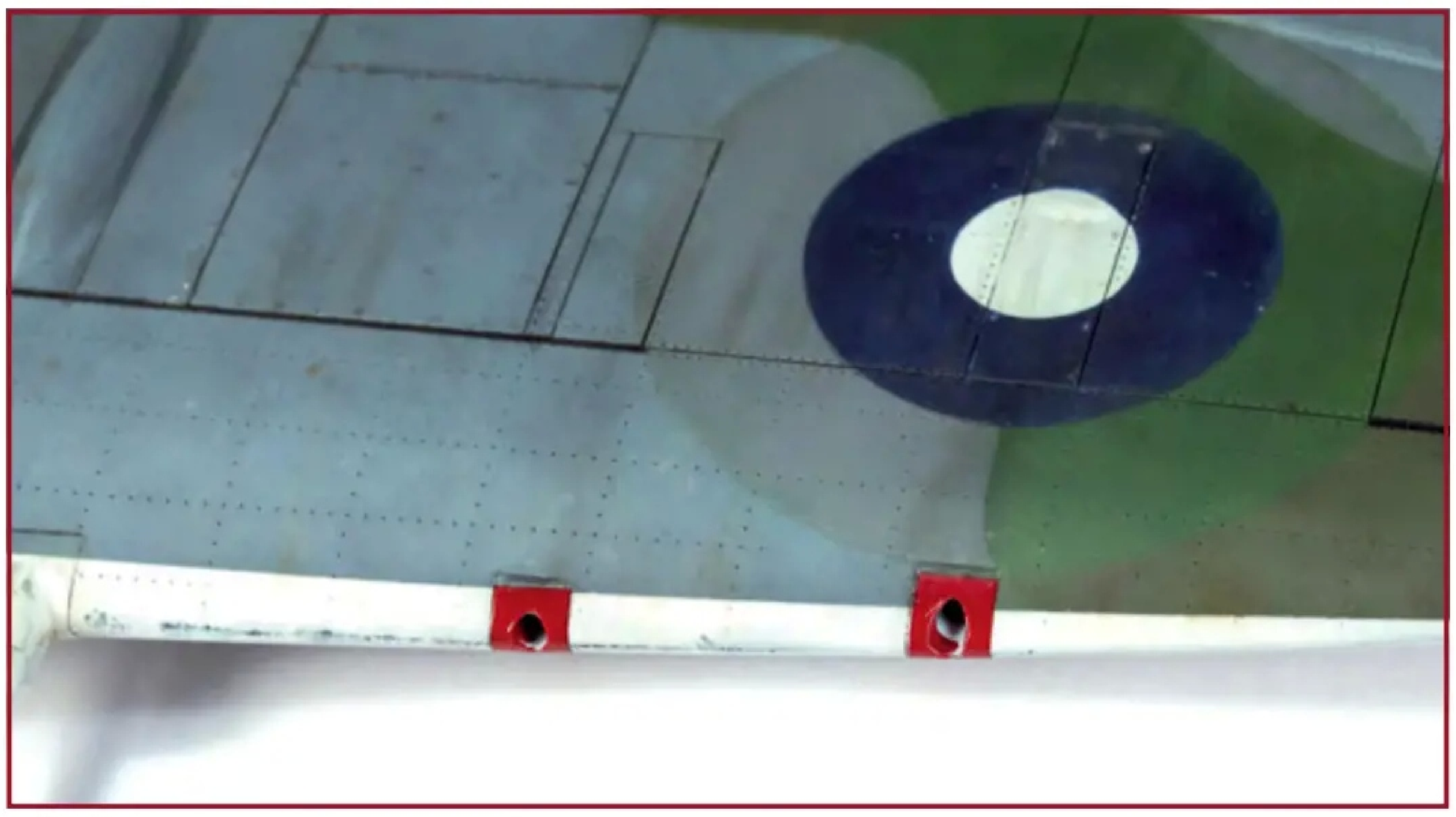


Oil paint dots were applied in different colours and mixes and dragged with odourless solvent to create grime streaks.

YAMAHA
CLEANING PAPER
PAPIER DE NETTOYAGE

I was looking for a solution to improve the gun port covers as decals just look like decals. I had a packet of saxophone pad cleaning paper which seemed ideal

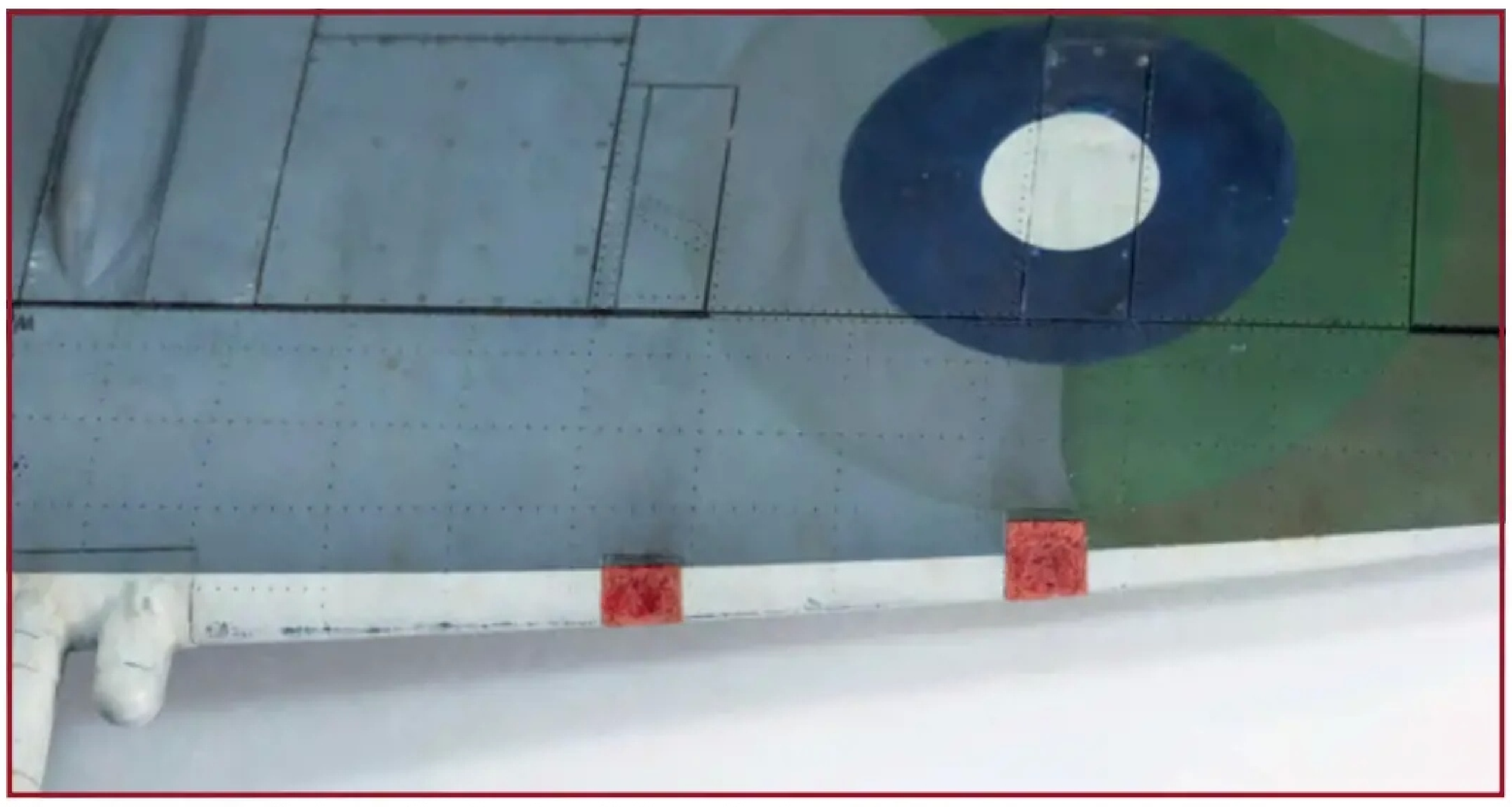
I ran a test on a paint mule using paper pre-painted with XF-7 and glued with dilute Mig of Ammo Ultra Glue



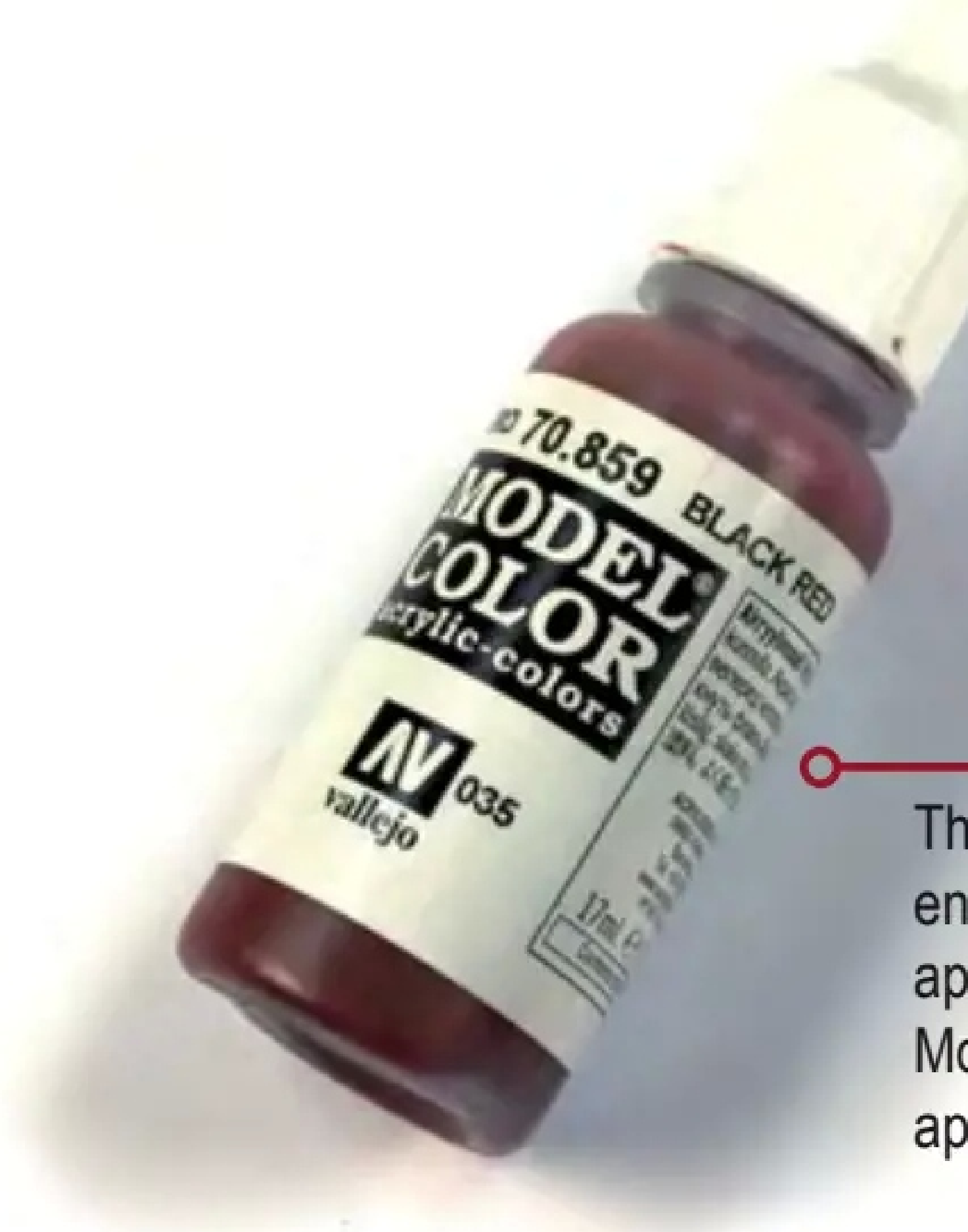
I first laid the kit decals down to create a bright red base and poked out the gun port openings

ULTRA GLUE
AMMO
A.MIG-2031

Pieces of pre-painted paper were cut to exactly match the size of the decals and dipped in a mix of Ultra Glue and water



The paper was applied over the decals and allowed to dry,


70.859 BLACK RED
MODEL COLOR
acrylic-colors
vallejo
035

The colour was enhanced by a very light application of Vallejo Model Color Black Red applied by brush

VARNISH HD
100 coats
XXL SATIN
XXL MATT

To complete the surface finish of the model, combinations of VMS Satin and Matt were airbrushed depending on the particular area

TRANSPA
FIX 6K
Adhesive for clear parts
Special cements

To complete the project, the sliding canopy was glued into place with VMS Transpa Fix 6K

FINISHING UP

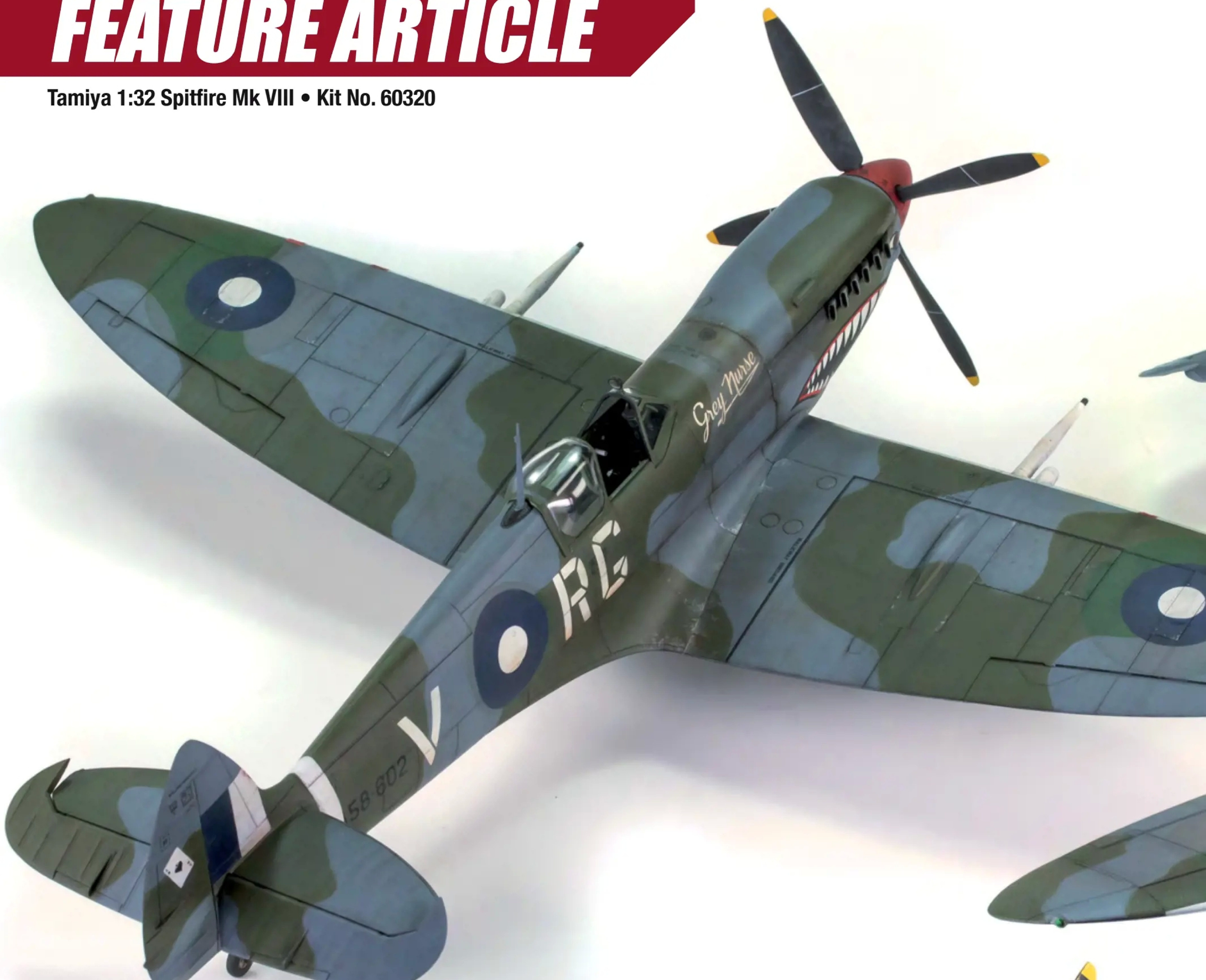
The entire airframe was coated with VMS Varnish in either Satin or Matt, depending on the area. A sharp Prismacolor silver pencil was then used to add fresh chipping effects to rivet heads, especially around the cowling area, but also around the wing roots to sharpen up some worn patches and add a fresher look to some of the worn and chipped areas, again to try to create a timeline rather than suggesting all wearing and chips happened at the same time.

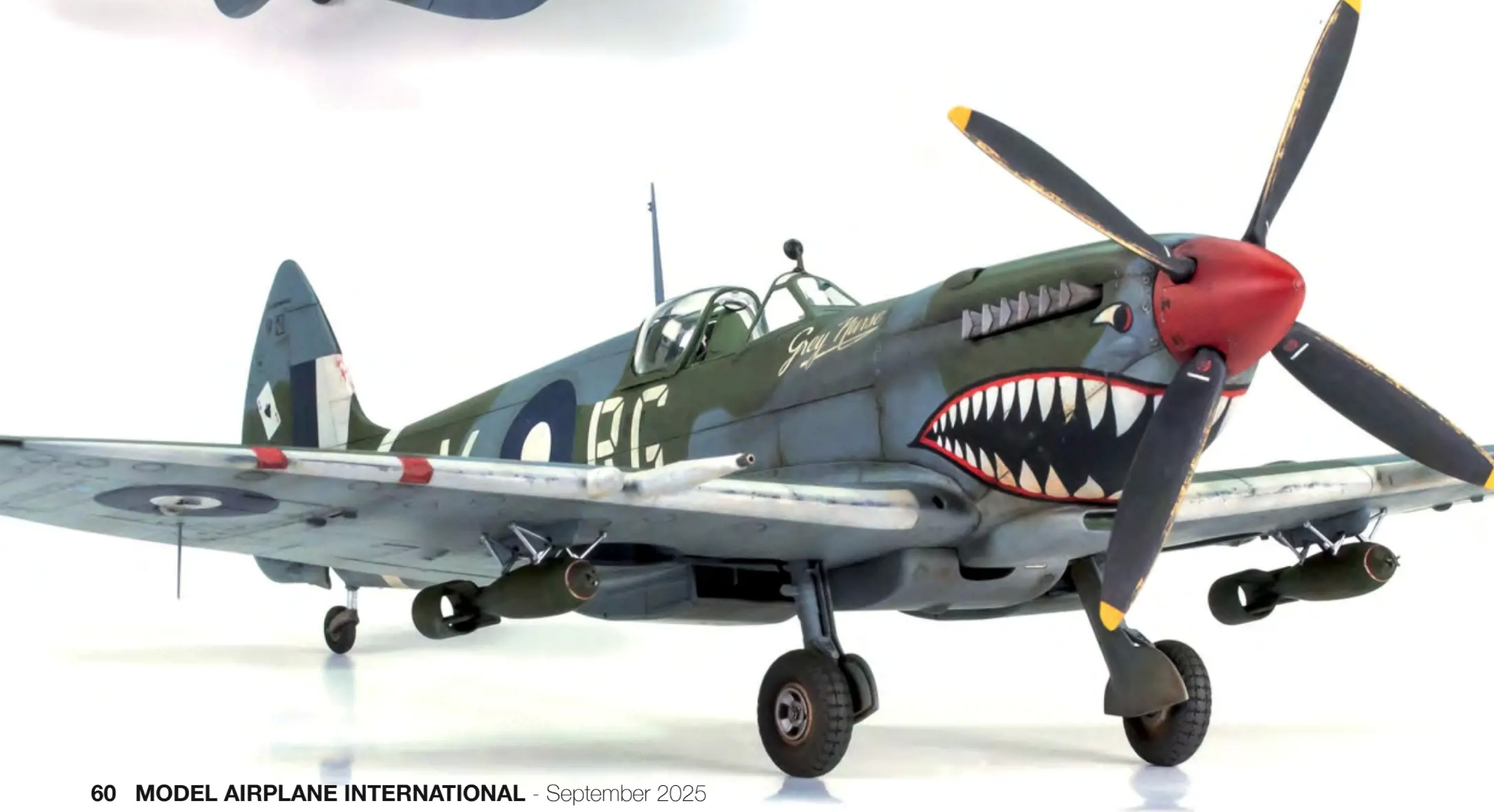
With all paint and weathering complete, the final construction steps were completed. Firstly, The bomb racks and bombs were cemented into place with a reassuring excellent fit. The main wheels were then bonded using Ultra Glue as it allowed me the time to make slight adjustments to their alignment. The canopy masks were removed and odourless solvent used to remove traces of tape adhesive. A sharp toothpick was useful in tidying up paint edges by scraping away tiny areas of paint that went beyond their lines. Some paint touch ups were then done on the canopy edges, before more chips were added with silver pencil.

The oleo struts on the main and tail wheels were then brush painted with Molotow Liquid Chrome, being careful not to overwork these surfaces as the product streaks if revisited more than once or twice.

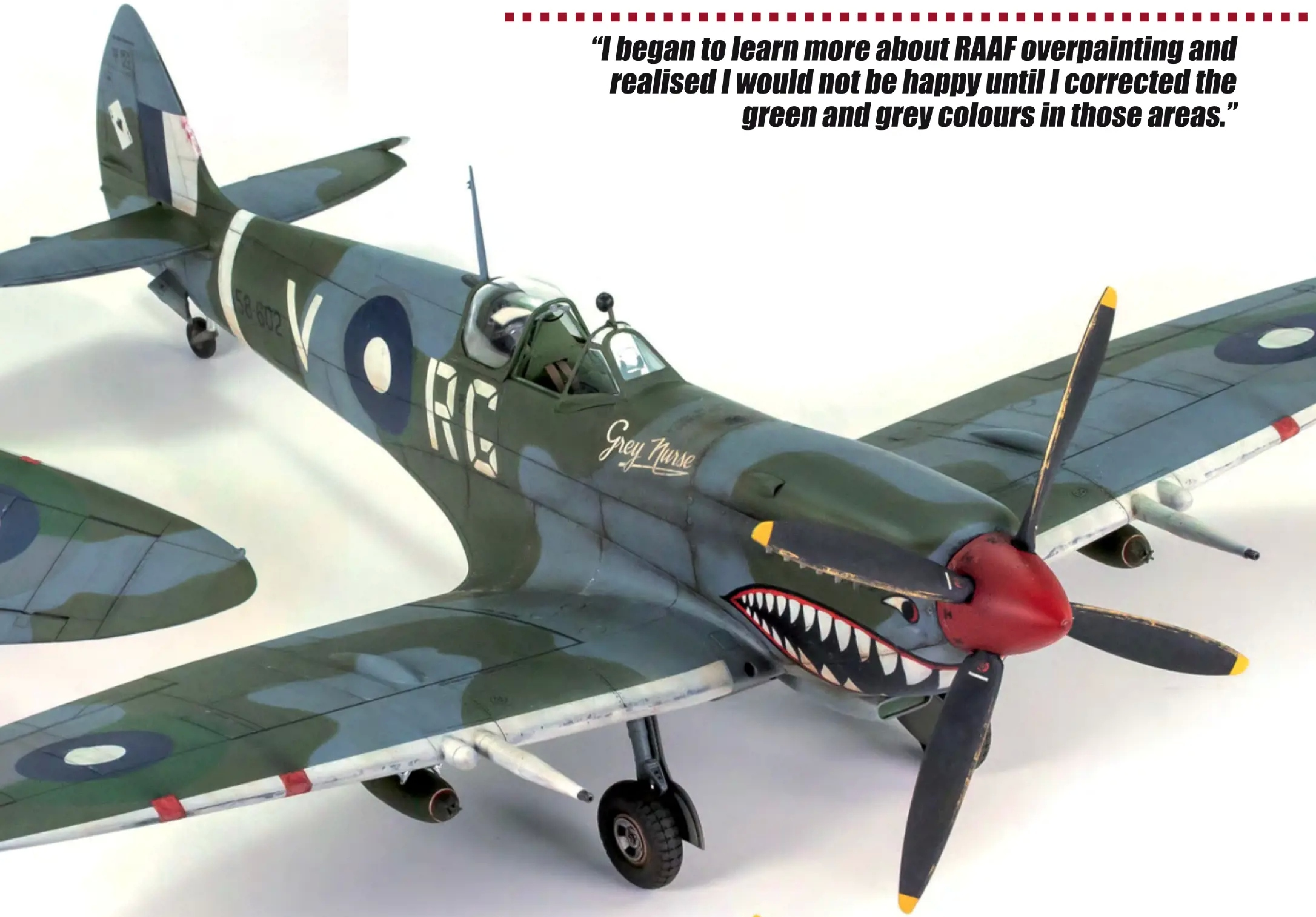
The rear view mirror, antenna and pitot tube were cemented with CA. To complete the project, the cockpit door was bonded with CA and the sliding canopy using VMS Transpa Fix 6K, which leaves no fog and dries crystal clear. ■

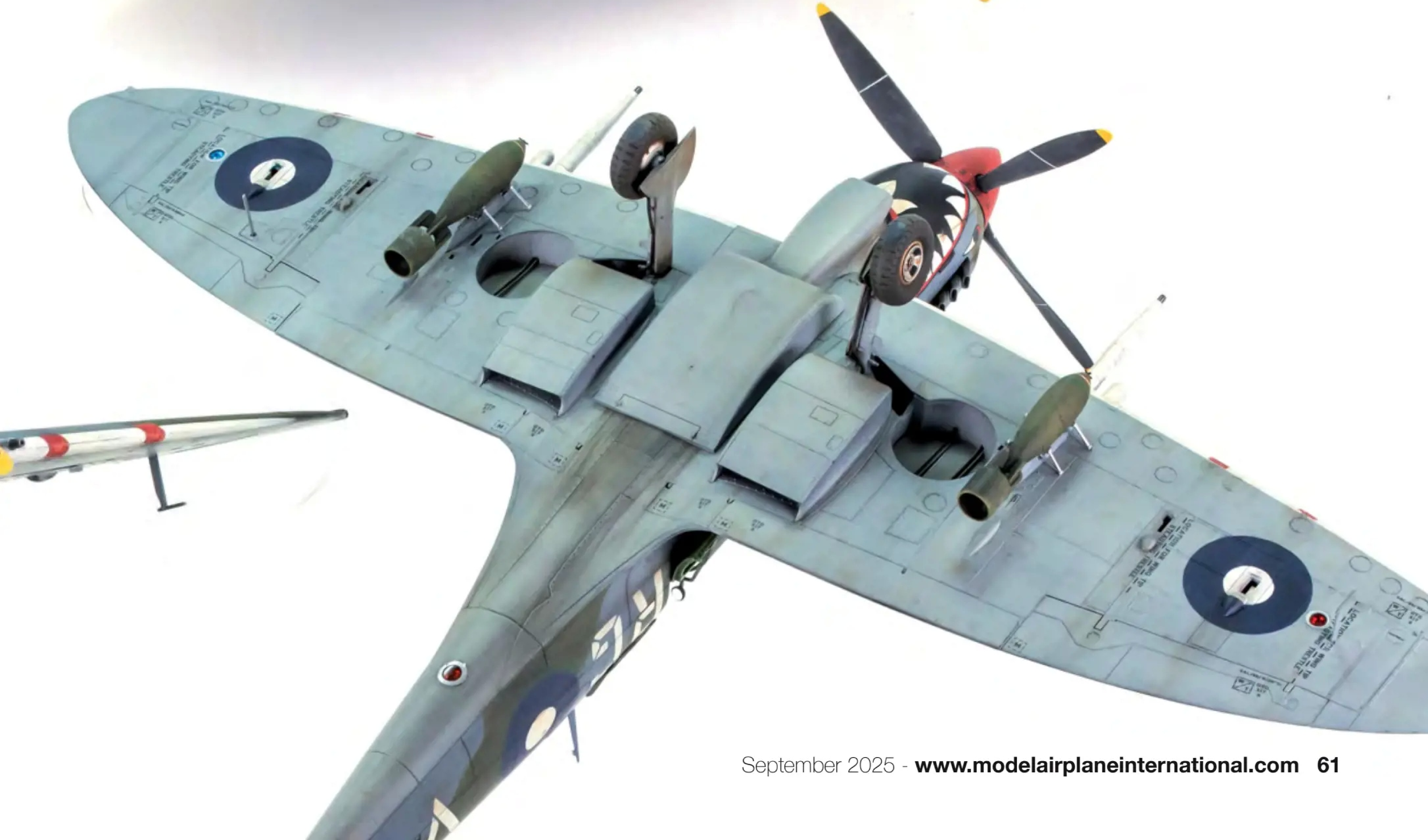
Nurse
RC
12 VOLTS


Grey Nurse
V RG
58-602


Grey Nurse

> *"I began to learn more about RAAF overpainting and realised I would not be happy until I corrected the green and grey colours in those areas."*

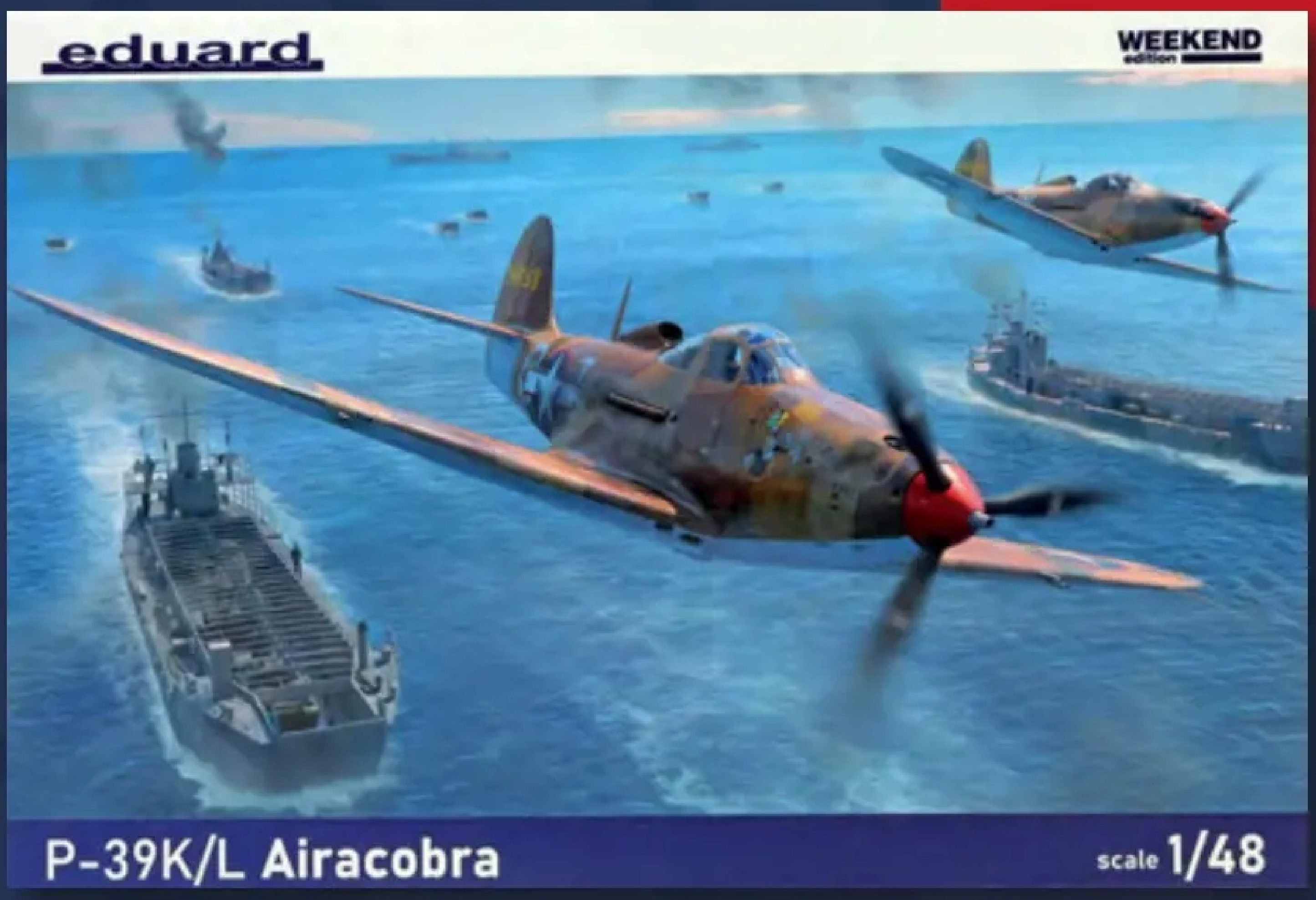




PREVIEW

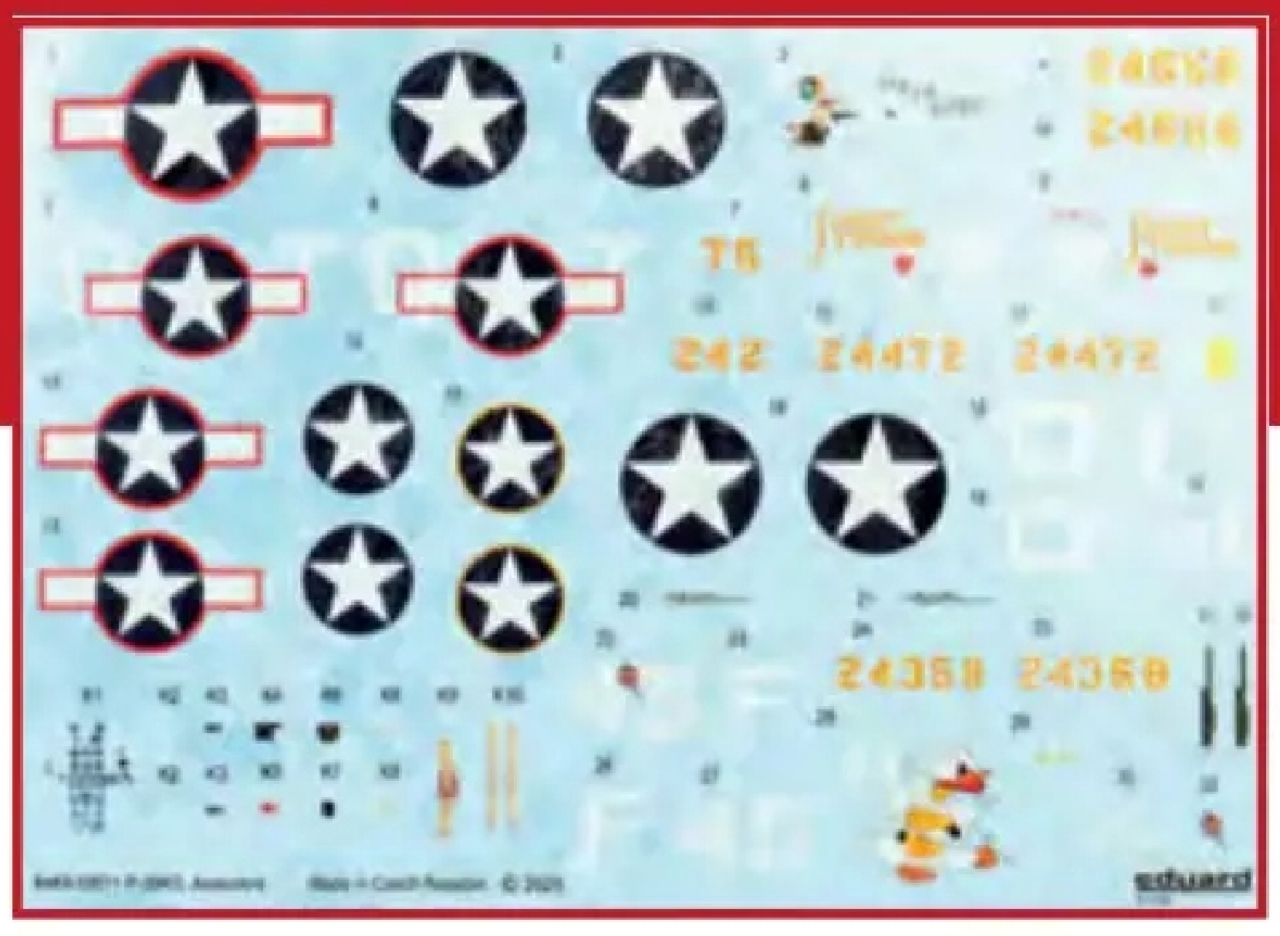
1:48

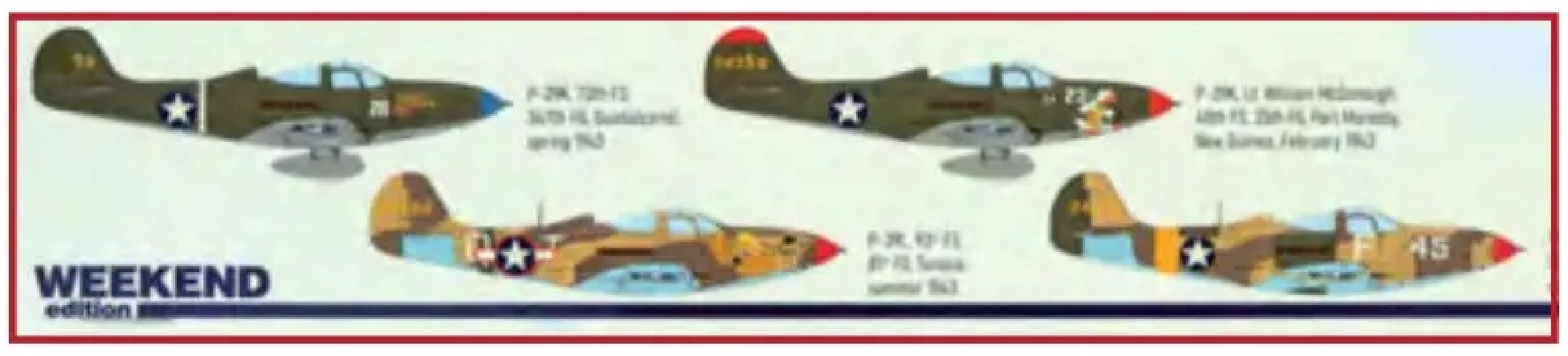
HEAVY HITTER



KIT PREVIEW Eduard ProfiPACK 1:48 P-39K/L Airacobra • Kit No. 8463

The Editor checks out the latest iteration of Eduard's 1:48 scale P-39 Airacobra family.





Eduard released their original 1:48 scale P-400 Airacobra kit in the year 2000.

This was a milestone kit for Eduard, featuring fine detail, crisply recessed panel lines and narrow sprue attachments. In his review on HyperScale upon the kit's release, Caz Dalton suggested that this was the Year 2000 the kit of the year.

There are a few minor differences between the 2000 release and Eduard's latest version in 2025. The moulds have been slightly altered to remove the seated pilot figure (no great loss if I recall him correctly) and the other major sprue has had a set of under wing machine gun pods added some time in the last decade. The original kit also included a shaped white metal nose weight, but it is not included in this release.

Eduard's 1:48 scale P-39N Airacobra comprises 126 parts in grey plastic (32 marked not for use), six clear plastic parts, one colour photo-etched fret, self-adhesive masks for canopy, doors and wheels, and markings for six aircraft.

Labelling this kit a P-39K/L sells it short, as you are provided parts to build either a P-39C, P-39D, P-39F, P-39N, P-39Q, P-400 or an Airacobra I - just bring your own decals.

Optional parts include different arrangements for armament, alternate wheels, propeller assemblies, centreline bomb and a drop tank. Three styles of exhaust are also provided - straight-through six stack, fishtail six stack and twelve stack.

Surface textures are nicely rendered, with crisply recessed panel lines and selected recessed rivets.

Fabric texture is subtle and convincing.

Detail is good even without photo-etched parts. The cockpit is well equipped.

The plastic instrument is a bit clunky.

The mouldings have stood up well to the test of time. I can't see any imperfections at all.

Note that this kit does not have locating pins for the major parts so you should spend a little extra time ensuring correct alignment.

Transparencies are thin and clear. Separate doors are supplied for both sides of the fuselage.

I built Eduard's kit shortly after it was released, and found it to to be a trouble-free project with logical construction and very good fit.

Some care is required when aligning the main parts due to the absence of locating pins though.

Markings are supplied for six varied aircraft: Stencil markings are supplied on a separate decal sheet.

Self-adhesive masks are also provided for the canopy, car-door windows and wheels.

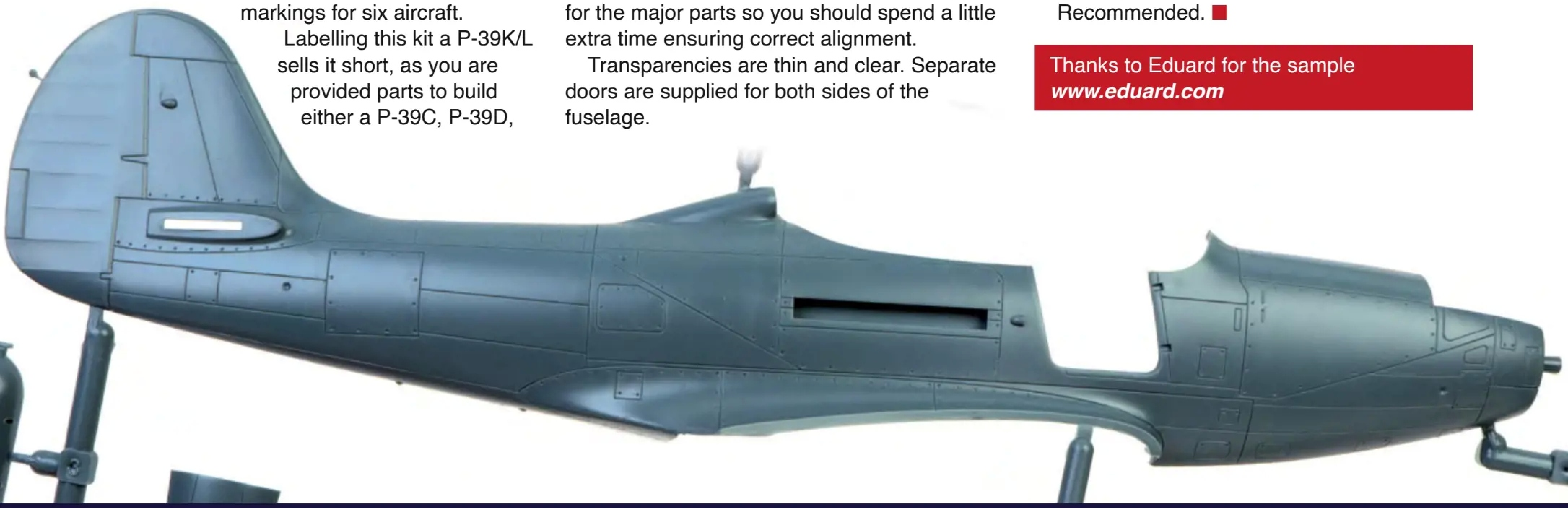
It is amazing to think that this model was released in the year 2000.

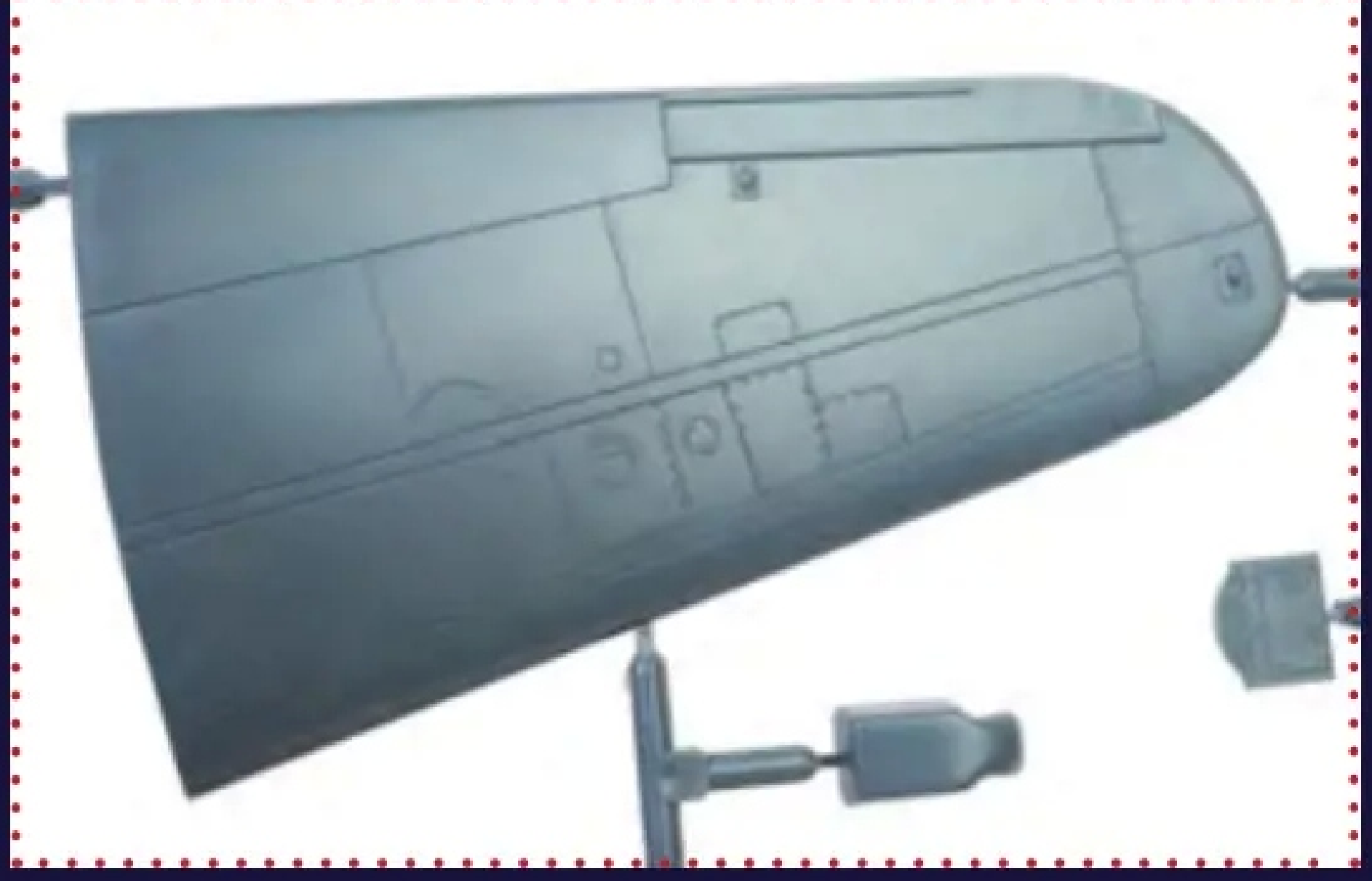
It looks as good now as it did on its initial release - better perhaps thanks to the big photo-etched fret and grey plastic.

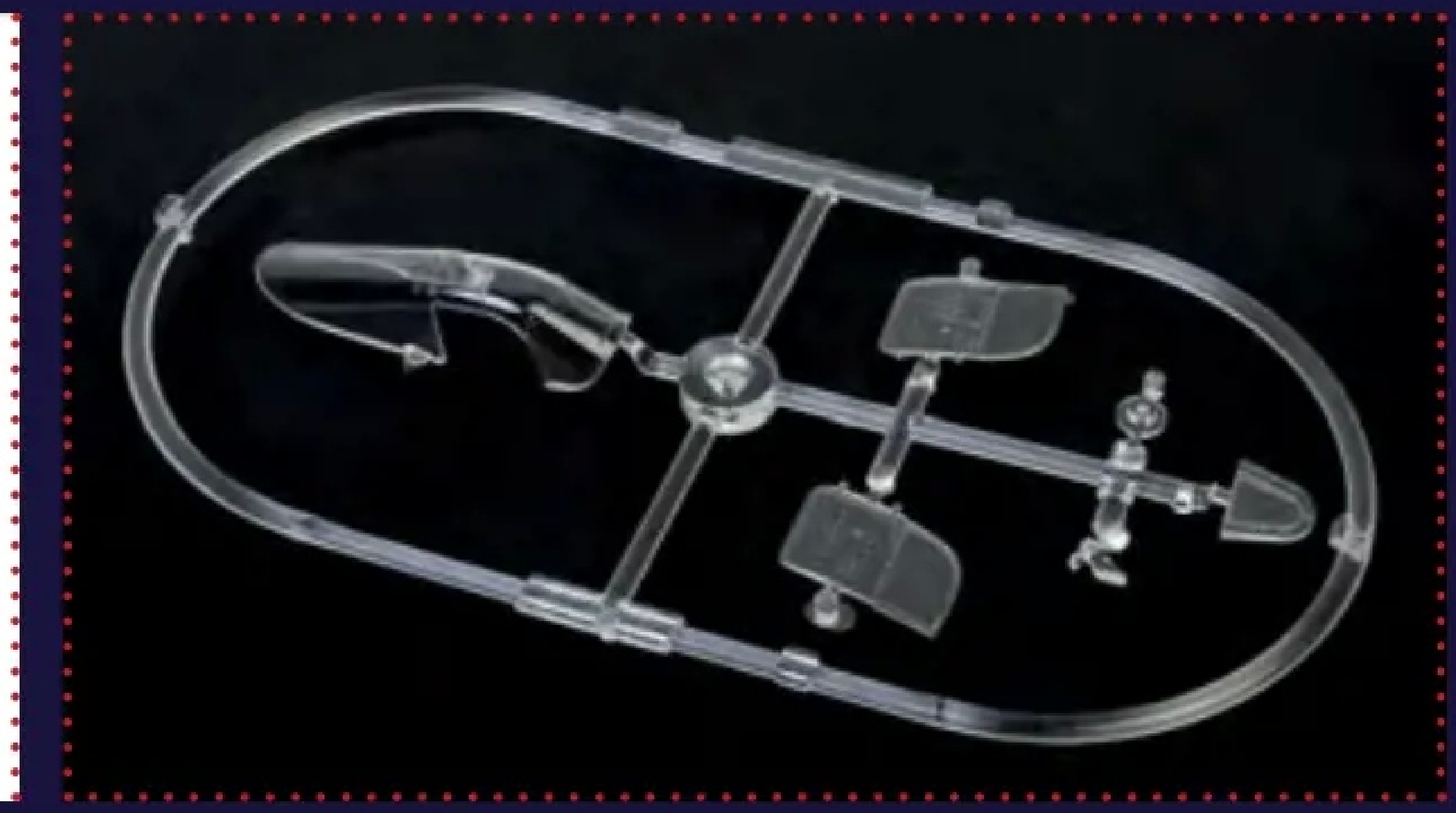
Eduard's 1:48 scale P-39N Airacobra can still sit proudly under the ProfiPACK label in 2025.

Recommended. ■

Thanks to Eduard for the sample
www.eduard.com







Celebrating **all aspects** of scale modeling

Become a member of IPMS UK and unlock a world of benefits designed to enhance your passion for scale model making! Enjoy access to a vibrant community of like-minded enthusiasts, expert advice, and valuable resources through our network of UK clubs and special interest groups.

Find out more or join at ipmsuk.org

2025 Annual membership £32*

*UK Adult membership

Ihesus Maria

'Best Figure'
Scale ModelWorld 2024
Jean of Arc | Tatiana Gapchenko

INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELLERS SOCIETY (UK)

ipmsuk.org

EBUYERSGUIDEBUYERSGUI

KIT KRAZY MODEL SHOP

Tel: 020 8298 7177
303 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8DT

NEW AND PRE-OWNED KITS, COLLECTIONS BOUGHT AND SOLD. OVER 20 MAJOR BRANDS OF ARMOUR KITS IN PLASTIC AND RESIN, BOTH CURRENT AND OOP - 70P S.A.E FOR OUR LIST

Opening hours: 9-30am-5.30pm (Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday)
You can also find us at most major model and airshows throughout the year

www.kitkrazy.com **Up to 20% Discount on mail order**

HANNANTS MODEL SHOP

Tel: 0208 205 6697 Fax: 01502 500521
Unit 2, Hurricane Trading Estate, Grahame Park Way, Colindale, NW9 5QW

OPEN 10.00AM - 5.30PM, THURS & FRI OPEN UNTIL 7.00PM

NO1 IN EUROPE FOR PLASTIC KITS AND ACCESSORIES
INCLUDING THE FULL RANGE OF TAMIYA (NOT RC)
email: sales@hannants.co.uk www.hannants.co.uk

1/2 MILE FROM RAF MUSEUM MASTERCARD/VISA/SWITCH

MODELLINGTOOLS.CO.UK

info@modellingtools.co.uk 01234 711980

Online
On the Phone
At model shows

modelling tools.co.uk

AVID READER

Tel: 01299 823 330 Fax:01299 829 970
Unit 10, Hodfar Road, Sandy lane Ind Estate, Stourport On Severn, Worcestershire, DY13 9QB

MILITARY, AVIATION, NAVAL, MODELLING, RAILWAYS, CAR & MOTORCYCLE BOOKS

9.30 – 4.30 MONDAY TO FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

WWW.BOOKWORLDWS.CO.UK
INFO@BOOKWORLDWS.CO.UK VISA/MASTERCARD/MAESTRO

AVIATION & MILITARY BOOK CENTRE

Tel: 0845 260 4413
PO Box 10159 COALVILLE. LEICS LE67 1WB

AVIATION AND MILITARY BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

PHONE LINES OPEN 10AM-6PM MON-FRI, 10AM-1PM SAT-SUN
PHONE, WRITE OR VISIT US ONLINE.

sales@aviationbookcentre.com www.aviationbookcentre.com

MASTERCARD/VISA/SWITCH/PAYPAL/CHEQUES/CASH/POSTAL ORDERS

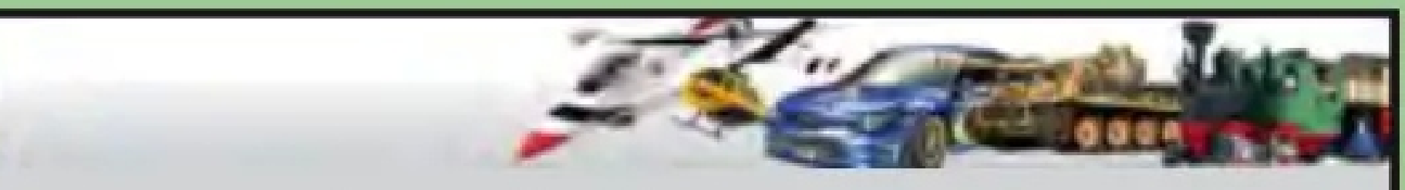
ADVERTISE HERE!

THIS SPACE COULD BE WORKING FOR YOU!
FOR INFORMATION,
CALL ON +44 1525 222573
ALAN@DOOLITTLEMEDIA.COM

WEBDIRECTORYWEBDIRECTORY

TAMIYA www.tamiya.com

www.creativemodels.co.uk



HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED
www.hobbyco.net

YOUR WEBSITE HERE!
call Alan on +44 1525 222573
alan@doolittlemedia.com

missing-lynx.com

www.eagle-editions.com
EagleCals, EagleParts, Library of Eagles and more
eagle editions ltd
eagle@eagle-editions.com

10th Year 1998 - 2007
HyperScale
www.hyperscale.com

ADVERTISE HERE!

THIS SPACE COULD BE WORKING FOR YOU!
FOR INFORMATION, CALL ON +44 1525 222573
ALAN@DOOLITTLEMEDIA.COM

NEXT ISSUE

SO WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE?

Subscribe Today Subscribe Today Subscribe Today
SEE PAGE 28

MAI 243 OCTOBER 2025
PUBLISHED 25TH SEPTEMBER

IN SEARCH OF PLUNDER

ICM'S 1:48 scale B-26B Maurauder by Brian Tomasin.

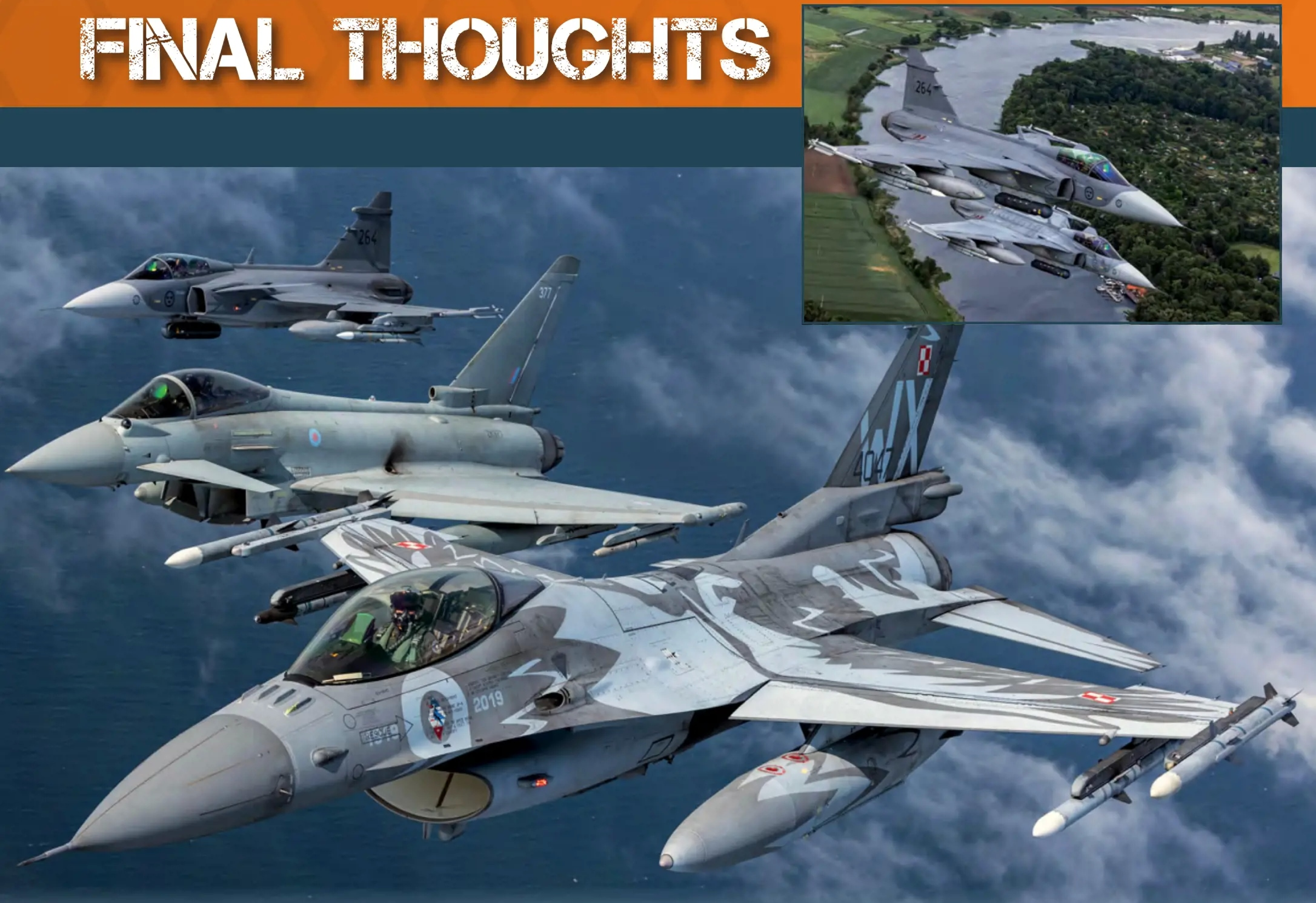
ROYAL CLASS
eduard
P-40N WARHAWK
DUAL COMBO 1/48

END OF THE LINE

The Editor builds Eduard's new 1:48 scale P-40N Warhawk Royal Class Edition.

FIGHTING FALCON PART 1

Mark Casiglia gets underway on his Tamiya 1:32 F-16C Fighting Falcon.

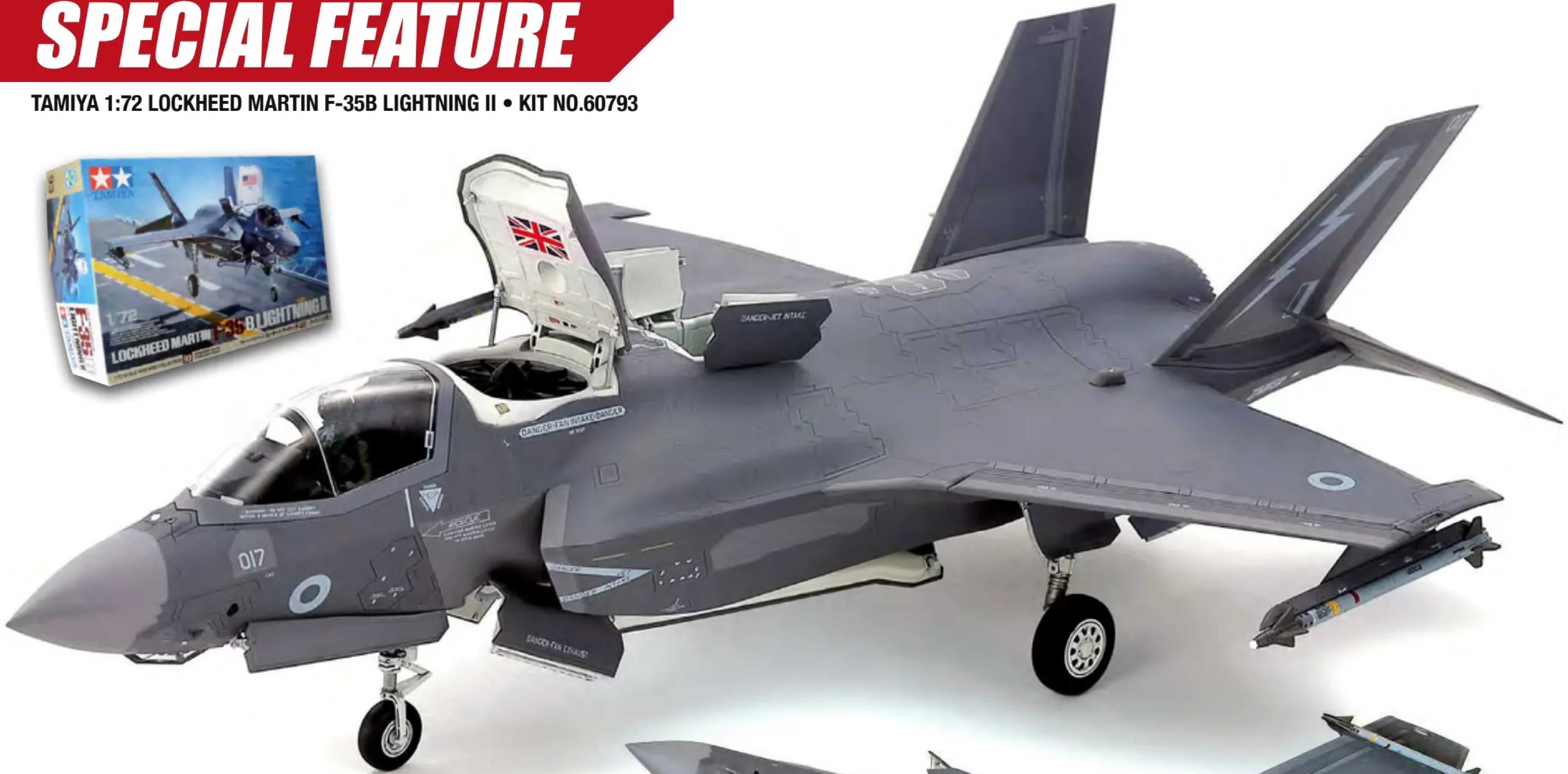


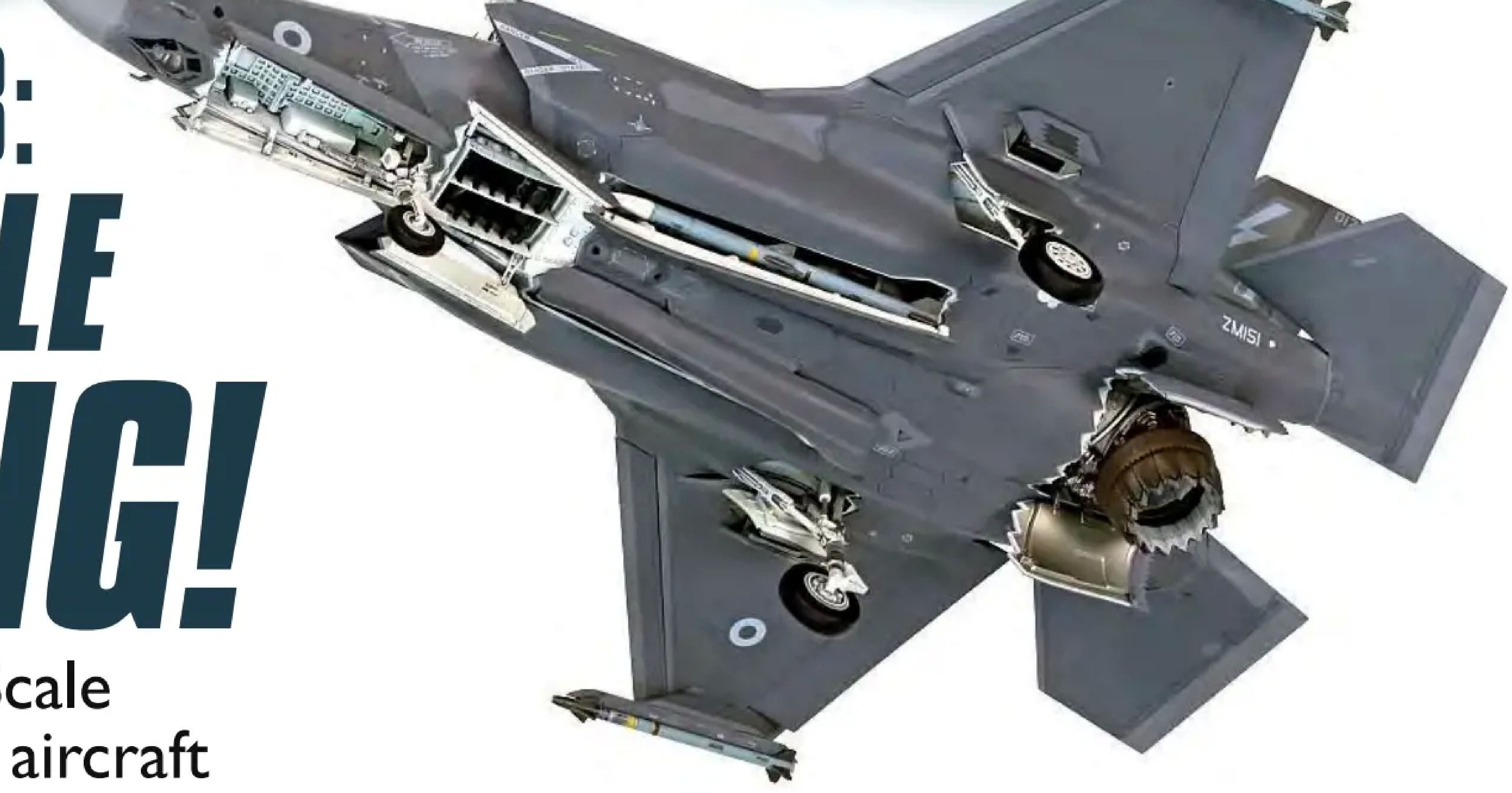
OPERATION CHESSMAN

Images from Operation Chessman, a joint enhanced air policing exercise covering the Eastern flank of Europe. The Royal Air Force with Swedish and Polish Air Forces conducted this operation in July 2025.

© UK MOD Crown Copyright 2025

TAMIYA 1:72 LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35B LIGHTNING II • KIT NO.60793





TAMIYA'S 1:72 F-35B: A LOVELY LITTLE LIGHTNING!

Tamiya's 1:72 F-35B joins the 'Scale Warbird Collection' of fighting aircraft

The Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II is operated by the Royal Air Force's famous 617 Squadron 'Dambusters', United States Marine Corps, Italian Navy, Italian Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, Belgian Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defence Force, and the Republic of Singapore Air Force. The kit encompasses all the astonishing detail and accuracy of its bigger 1:48 cousin, a model that was featured back in Tamiya Model Magazine Issue 339, January 2024.

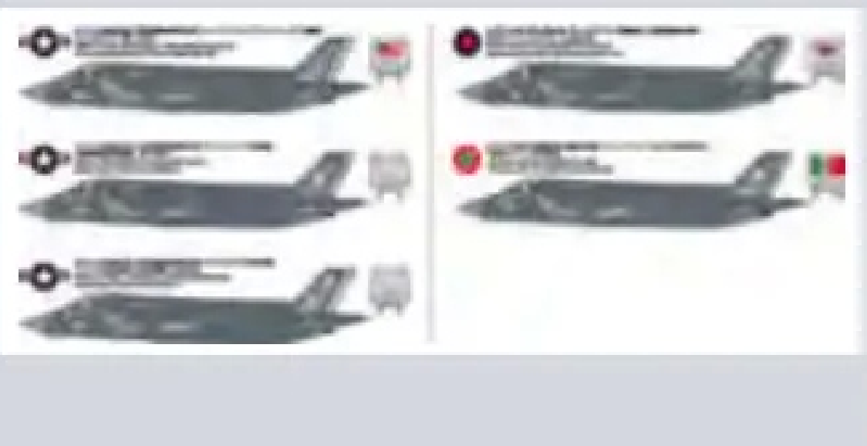
The new version takes in all the design changes for the B-model, most notably that huge intake door behind the cockpit, the inner face of which is often adorned with the flag of the operating nation. Inside that door, Tamiya have recreated an astonishing amount of detail and the same is true of the '3BSM' (3-Bearing Swivel Module) engine exhaust nozzle that can be positioned in the 'hovering' mode. It is covered in amazing detail and just needs some creative paint work to bring it to life.

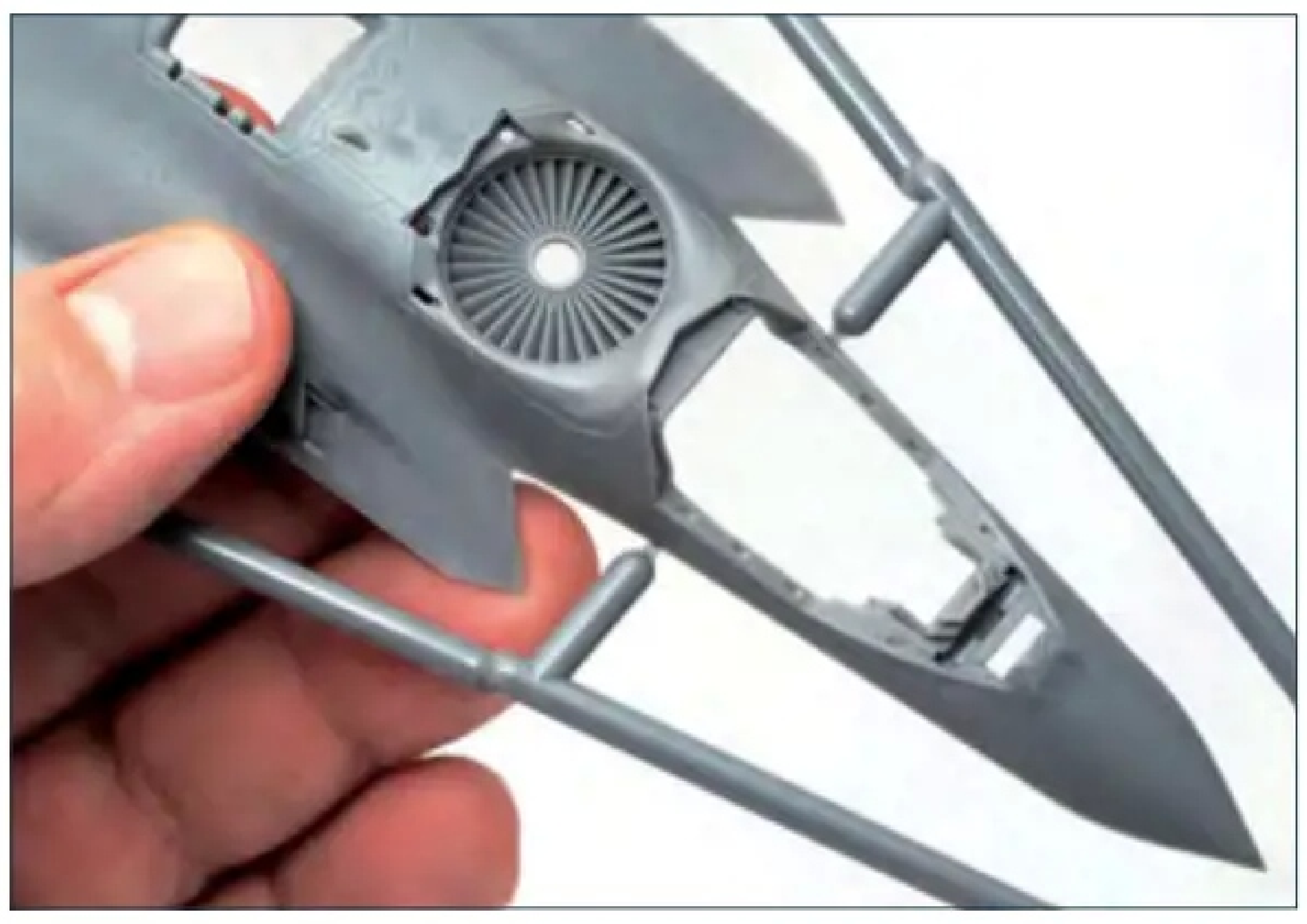
Two modes can be chosen by the modeller: hovering, with open intake door, downward-facing exhaust nozzle, extended undercarriage leg struts and scissor-links, and 'landed' mode, which uses a different set of undercarriage parts in the 'compressed' configuration (with closed scissor-links) to depict the aircraft's weight pressing down on the legs: an important observation by Tamiya's designers. This is another wonderful achievement from Tamiya, and an exquisite replica of this extraordinary fighter and one of the best 1:72 kits ever created. ●

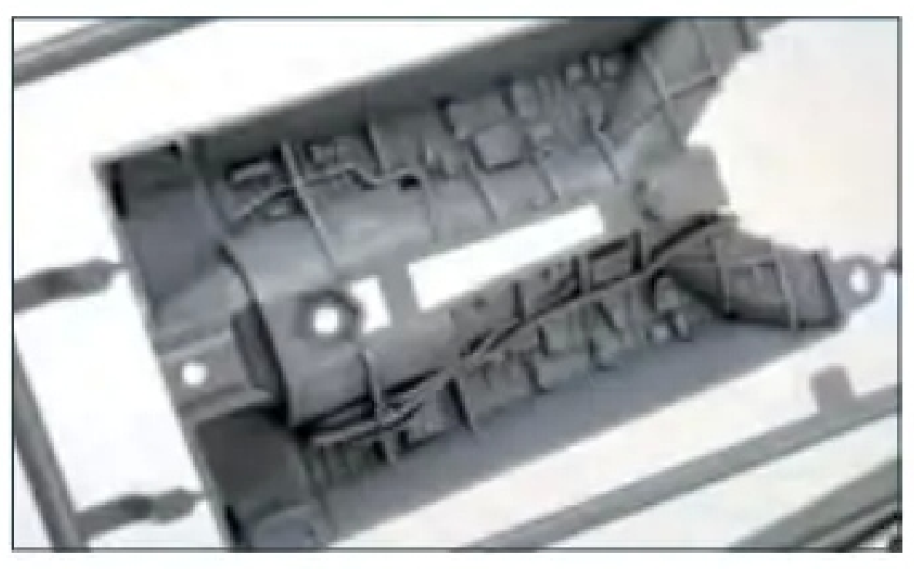
Availability:
Tamiya models, paints, materials and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; ***www.hobbyco.net***

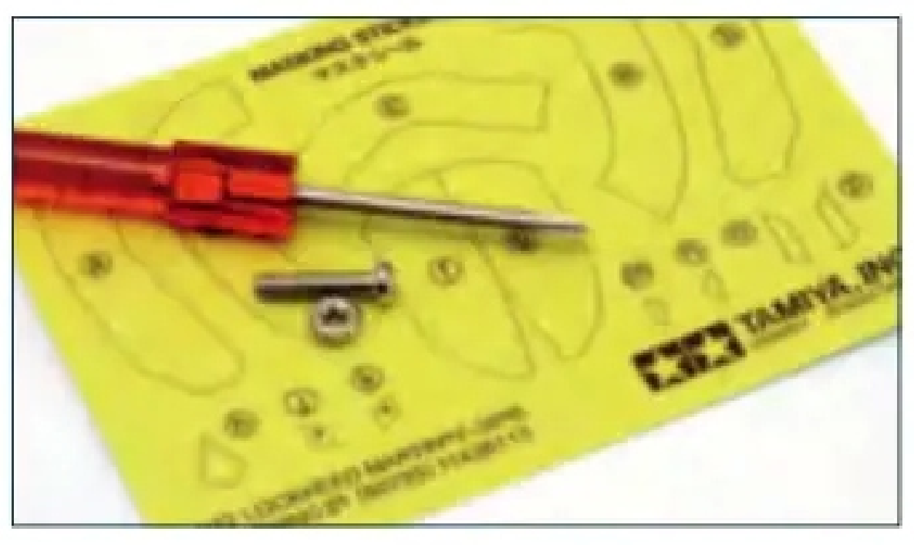
Kit features:

- Wingspan: 148mm
- Fuselage length: 215mm
- Distinctive F-35B design featuring both highly advanced stealth characteristics and STOVL is authentically captured in style, with ergonomic parts breakdown
- The modellers can choose one of two assembly modes: landed or hovering
- Realistic renderings of half-open inner weapon bay doors and interior details such as ribs and pipes
- Lift fan is integrated with nose landing gear bay and the variable vane underneath is recreated in detail
- Shorter than on the F-35A, the engine nozzle is recreated by a single part
- The 3BSM (3-Bearing Swivel Module) is faithfully recreated with a specially designed parts breakdown for this kit
- Y-shaped air intake duct for highly advanced stealth characteristics
- Martin-Baker US16E ejection seat
- RCS (Radar Cross Section) enhancers affixed to top and bottom sections during basic training exercises
- Five marking options from a total of three countries: United States Marine Corps, Royal Air Force, Italian Navy
- Includes painting masks and colour painting guide
- Refined recreation of RAM (Radar Absorbent Material)
- Includes AIM-9X Sidewinder x2, AIM-120C AMRAAM x2









Advertisement

F-35® LIGHTNING II®

1/48 SCALE

F-35B
61125
Lockheed Martin®
F-35®B Lightning II®

F-35A
61124
Lockheed Martin®
F-35®A Lightning II®

F-35C
61127
Lockheed Martin®
F-35®C Lightning II®

Our legendary 1/48 Aircraft Series now has all F-35 variants! The F-35A conventional take-off and landing (CTOL) aircraft kit was the first released, and praised for excellent renderings of its form and details such as weapon bays, with unitized interior components for an ergonomic assembly experience. The F-35B short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) aircraft kit offers three assembly types: parked, short takeoff and vertical landing.

As the final variant, the F-35C kit depicts the distinctive F-35C form with the largest wings and stabilizers among the F-35 variants. This kit allows a choice of deployed or folded wingtip parts and faithfully recreates F-35C characteristics such as the reinforced nose landing gear with dual tires, rigid main landing gear and retractable fuel probe on the right side of the nose. Why not proceed with creating your own Joint Strike Fighter force in 1/48 scale?

A Hat Trick of Elite Aircraft

《All F-35 variants in the Tamiya line-up!》—1/48 Aircraft Series

LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35A LIGHTNING II

61124 Lockheed Martin® F-35®A Lightning II®

LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35B LIGHTNING II

61125 Lockheed Martin® F-35®B Lightning II®

LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35C LIGHTNING II

61127 Lockheed Martin® F-35®C Lightning II®

LOCKHEED MARTIN
F-35® Lightning II®

LOCKHEED MARTIN®, F-35® Lightning II®, associated emblems and logos, and body designs of vehicles are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Lockheed Martin Corporation in the USA and/or other jurisdictions, used under license by Tamiya.

TAMIYA

TAMIYA, INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU, SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN

★Images show assembled and painted kits. ★Products may vary from images shown.

©2025 TAMIYA